United Nations S/2016/574

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2016
English
Original: French

Letter dated 24 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 9 June 2016 (S/2016/527) in which you took note of my proposal to reappoint the 25 judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

I have also received a corresponding letter from the President of the General Assembly (see annex I). Accordingly, I am proceeding with the reappointment of all of the judges of the Mechanism.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2269 (2016), adopted on 29 February 2016, the judges will be reappointed for a two-year term, with effect from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2018.

I should be grateful if you would bring to the attention of the members of the Security Council the decision to reappoint all of the judges. The present letter contains a list of the judges (see annex II).

(*Signed*) BAN Ki-moon

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Annex I to the letter dated 24 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Letter dated 17 June 2016 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 3 June 2016 concerning the reappointment of the 25 judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (S/2016/526).

In accordance with article 10, paragraph 3, of the statute of the Mechanism, I am pleased to inform you that I concur with the proposed reappointment of the 25 judges listed in the annex to your letter, for a term of two years, with effect from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2018.

(*Signed*) Mogens Lykketoft

Annex II to the letter dated 24 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Mr. Carmel A. Agius (Malta)

Mr. Aydin Sefa Akay (Turkey)

Mr. Jean-Claude Antonetti (France)

Ms. Florence Arrey (Cameroon)

Ms. Solomy Balungi Bossa (Uganda)

Mr. Ivo Nelson de Caires Batista Rosa (Portugal)

Mr. José Ricardo de Prada Solaesa (Spain)

Mr. Ben Emmerson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Mr. Christoph Flügge (Germany)

Ms. Graciela Susana Gatti Santana (Uruguay)

Mr. Burton Hall (Bahamas)

Mr. Vagn Prüsse Joensen (Denmark)

Mr. Gberdao Gustave Kam (Burkina Faso)

Mr. Liu Daqun (China)

Mr. Joseph E. Chiondo Masanche (United Republic of Tanzania)

Mr. Theodor Meron (United States of America)

Mr. Bakone Justice Moloto (South Africa)

Mr. Lee G. Muthoga (Kenya)

Ms. Aminatta Lois Runeni N'gum (The Gambia)

Ms. Prisca Matimba Nyambe (Zambia)

Mr. Alphons Orie (The Netherlands)

Mr. Seymour Panton (Jamaica)

Mr. Seon Ki Park (Republic of Korea)

Mr. Mparany Mamy Richard Rajohnson (Madagascar)

Mr. William Hussein Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania)

United Nations S/2016/575

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 25 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of remarks made by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 24 June 2016 with regard to a press statement issued by the Security Council denouncing DPRK's successful test fire of a surface-to-surface intermediate strategic ballistic rocket (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council at your earliest convenience.

(*Signed*) Ja Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-10865 (E) 280616

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Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Remarks made by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 24 June 2016 with regard to a press statement issued by the Security Council denouncing DPRK's successful test fire of surface-to-surface intermediate strategic ballistic rocket

Pyongyang, 24 June (KCNA) — A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK Friday gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA as regards the fact that the United Nations Security Council pulled up the DPRK over its test fire of an intermediate strategic ballistic rocket:

The news of Juche Korea's successful test fire of the surface-to-surface medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-10 shook the world, demonstrating its powerful defence capability. But some hostile forces are attempting to pull up the DPRK over its step towards bolstering its self-reliant defence capability.

On 23 June, a press statement was made at the Security Council to "denounce" the test fire, calling for the implementation of the "resolution on sanctions".

We totally reject this Security Council press statement, which is devoid of impartiality and a product of a double standard, as an invention of the U.S. chiefly responsible for the escalated tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The successful test fire of strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-10, a normal action pursuant to the DPRK's line of simultaneously pushing forward the economic construction and the building of nuclear force, was a self-defensive step to reliably defend the security of the country and its people from the U.S. and other hostile forces' constant threat.

However, the Security Council adopted what is called a press statement and cried out for the implementation of the "resolution on sanctions" against the DPRK. This is an unreasonable deed of turning black into white.

The "resolution on sanctions" against the DPRK is a product of high-handedness wantonly violating the sovereignty of an independent State.

The United Nations Secretariat, too, has not brought up the legal basis for justifying it.

The U.S. is the very one that threatens the DPRK by force and aggravates the situation intentionally, steadily hurling into south Korea such strategic means as nuclear submarines and strategic bombers.

It is a legitimate self-defensive step for the DPRK to secure the corresponding powerful attack means now that the U.S. is constantly posing threats to the sovereignty and vital rights of the DPRK.

As already declared by the DPRK, détente and stability on the Korean Peninsula cannot be realized by anyone's unilateral efforts.

The U.S. is well advised to recall how the DPRK emerged a nuclear-weapon State and has steadily bolstered war deterrence, before criticizing the latter's efforts to increase military strength, and reflect on its extremely hostile policy towards the DPRK.

Its sustained strategic mistake and rash deed are now driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula to an uncontrollable extreme phase.

The DPRK will take in succession the self-defensive countermeasures of its style as long as the U.S. continues resorting to nuclear threat, sanctions and pressure on it.

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Security Council

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29 June 2016

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Angola, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular 2227 (2015) and 2100 (2013), its Presidential Statement of 6 February 2015 (S/PRST/2015/3), and its press statements, including of 12 January 2016, concerning the situation in Mali,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali, *emphasizing* that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of Mali, and *underscoring* the importance of achieving national ownership of peace- and security-related initiatives,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned, and *also recalling* its Presidential Statement of 25 of November 2015 (S/PRST/2015/22),

Recognizing the legitimate aspiration of all Malian citizens to enjoy lasting peace and development,

Recognizing that the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali (« the Agreement ») signed in 2015 by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* coalition of armed groups, and the *Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad* coalition of armed groups, represents a historic opportunity to achieve lasting peace in Mali,

Considering the Agreement as balanced and comprehensive, aiming to address the political, institutional, governance, security, development and reconciliation dimensions of the crisis in Mali, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State,

Underscoring that the responsibility for the full and effective implementation of the Agreement, which has to be Malian-led and Malian-owned, rests with the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, and is crucial to contribute to lasting peace in Mali, drawing lessons from previous peace agreements,

Welcoming the positive steps taken by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to implement the Agreement while *expressing*

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serious concern at the continued delays in its implementation, and also *welcoming* the respect of the ceasefire since August 2015 as an important and concrete goodwill gesture of the Malian parties,

Welcoming the signing by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups on 19 June 2016 of the *Entente* on the interim authorities and other related arrangements, as well as the decision of the President of Mali, Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, on 15 June 2016 to appoint Mr. Mahamadou Diagouraga as his High Representative to on the implementation of the Agreement,

Welcoming the adoption by the Government of Mali, in January 2016, of Mali's second National Action Plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and *further welcoming* in this regard the adoption by the Government of Mali, in December 2015, of a law requiring a 30 per cent quota for women in national institutions,

Affirming its intention to facilitate, support and follow closely the implementation of the Agreement, and *commending* the role played by Algeria and other members of the international mediation team to assist the Malian parties to implement the Agreement,

Welcoming the announcement by the Government of Mali on 12 April 2016 of the holding of communal elections on 25 September 2016, a constitutional referendum in November 2016, during which the establishment of a Senate would be proposed, and regional elections in the first semester of 2017, and *calling for* these processes to be inclusive,

Expressing concern about the volatile security situation, especially the recent expansion of terrorist and other criminal activities into central and southern Mali as well as the intensification of intercommunal violence in the Centre of Mali,

Noting that the slow progress in the implementation of the Agreement, particularly its defence and security provisions, as well as the delayed restructuring of the security sector, have hampered efforts to restore security in the North of Mali, and *stressing* the primary responsibility of the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement in order to improve the security situation across Mali and to forestall attempts by terrorist groups to derail the implementation of the Agreement,

Strongly condemning the activities in Mali and in the Sahel region of terrorist organisations, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al Mourabitoune, Ansar Eddine, and their affiliates such as the Front de Libération du Macina (FLM), which continue to operate in Mali and constitute a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond, and human rights abuses and violence against civilians, notably women and children, committed in Mali and in the region by terrorist groups,

Condemning the attacks against MINUSMA, the Malian Defence and Security Forces, EUTM Mali and the French forces, that continue to be perpetrated by terrorist groups,

Stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States, and regional and international organisations to impede, impair, and isolate

the terrorist threat, and *reaffirming* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Recalling the listing of MUJAO, the Organisation of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar Eddine and its leader Iyad Ag Ghali, and Al Mourabitoune on the Al-Qaida sanctions list established by the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and *reiterating its readiness*, under the above-mentioned regime, to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities who are associated with Al-Qaida and other listed entities and individuals, including AQIM, Al Mourabitoune and Ansar Eddine, in accordance with the established listing criteria,

Welcoming the continued action by the French forces, at the request and in support of the Malian authorities, to deter the terrorist threat in the North of Mali,

Emphasizing that security and stability in Mali are inextricably linked to that of the Sahel and West Africa regions, as well as the situation in Libya and in the North Africa region,

Expressing its continued concern over the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region, as well as the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime in the Sahel region, including arms and drug trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, *underscoring* the responsibility of the countries in the region in addressing these threats and challenges, *welcoming* in this context the efforts of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5), including the establishment of a framework to strengthen regional security cooperation as well as to conduct cross-border joint military operations, and the African Union Nouakchott process, *also welcoming* the decision of the defence ministers of the States of the Sahel and Sahara on 24-25 March 2016 to intensify their regional cooperation to combat terrorism and to establish a new counterterrorist centre with its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, and *welcoming* the efforts of the French forces to support G5 Member States to increase regional counter-terrorism cooperation,

Strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, *reiterating* its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking in the Sahel region, in accordance with applicable international law, *recalling* its resolutions 2133 (2014) and 2253 (2015) and including its call upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from the payment of ransoms or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages and, in this regard, and *noting* the publication of the Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) "Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists",

Strongly condemning all abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial and summary executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions and ill-treatment of prisoners, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, attacks against schools and hospitals, *calling on* all parties to respect the civilian character of schools as such in accordance with international humanitarian law and to cease unlawful and arbitrary detention of all children, and *calling upon*

all parties to bring an end to such violations and abuses and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law,

Reiterating, in this regard, that all perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable and that some of such acts referred to in the paragraph above may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute, *taking note* that, acting upon the referral of the transitional authorities of Mali dated 13 July 2012, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened, on 16 January 2013, an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of Mali since January 2012, and, in this regard, *further taking note* of the opening by the ICC on 1 March 2016 of the confirmation of charges hearing in the first trial at the ICC for the alleged war crime of intentionally directing attacks against religious and historical monuments in Timbuktu, and recalling the importance of assistance and cooperation, by all parties concerned, with the Court,

Underscoring that Malian civilian control and oversight as well as further consolidation of the Malian Defence and Security Forces are important to ensure Mali's long-term security and stability and to protect the people of Mali,

Commending the role of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM Mali) in Mali in providing training and advice for the Malian Defence and Security Forces, including contributing to the strengthening of civilian authority and respect for human rights, and of the European Union Capacity Building Mission (EUCAP Sahel Mali) in providing strategic advice and training for the Police, Gendarmerie and Garde nationale in Mali,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to uphold and respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance, the safety and protection of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in Mali, and *stressing* the importance of humanitarian assistance being delivered on the basis of need,

Remaining seriously concerned over the significant ongoing food and humanitarian crisis in Mali, and over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, exacerbated by the presence of armed groups, terrorist and criminal networks, and their activities, the presence of landmines as well as the continued illicit proliferation of weapons from within and outside the region that threatens the peace, security, and stability of States in this region, and *condemning* attacks against humanitarian personnel,

Expressing its strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, and for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to assist the Malian authorities and the Malian people in their efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to their country, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Malian authorities to protect the population, and *welcoming* the stabilizing effect of the international presence in Mali, including MINUSMA,

Commending troop and police contributing countries of MINUSMA for their contribution, *paying tribute* to the peacekeepers who risk, as well as lost, their lives in this respect, strongly *condemning* attacks against peacekeepers, and *underlining* that attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law,

Expressing serious concern at the continuing lack of key capabilities for MINUSMA, stressing the need to strengthen MINUSMA's capabilities to enable it to fulfil its mandate in a complex security environment that includes asymmetric threats, and *emphasizing* the utmost importance of ensuring the security and safety of MINUSMA's personnel in that regard,

Emphasizing the importance for MINUSMA to ensure the most effective use and disposition of its troops and capabilities in accordance with the prioritization of tasks of its mandate,

Determining that the situation in Mali continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali

1. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to continue to engage constructively with sustained political will and in good faith to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali to bring concrete peace dividends to the populations of Mali, and to urgently commit to a concrete timeline for its implementation;

2. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to prioritize without further delay the necessary steps to advance the implementation of the following provisions of the Agreement, bearing in mind the need to ensure the full implementation of the Agreement, notably:

- political and institutional aspects, as referred to in Part II of the Agreement, notably the decentralization process and the effective establishment of the interim administrations, as well as the timely holding of communal and regional elections by the Malian authorities,

- defence and security aspects, as referred to in Part III and Annex 2 of the Agreement, notably the deployment of joint security patrols and special units in the North of Mali and the cantonment, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed combatants, within the framework of the reform of the security sector;

3. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to continue to uphold the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, the *Arrangement sécuritaire pour une cessation des hostilités* of 5 June 2015, and the declarations of cessation of hostilities of 24 July 2014 and 19 February 2015;

4. *Expresses* its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against those who take actions to obstruct or threaten the implementation of the Agreement, those who resume hostilities and violate the ceasefire, those who attack and take actions to threaten MINUSMA and other international presences, as well as those who provide support to such attacks and actions;

5. *Demands* that all armed groups in Mali put aside their arms, cease hostilities, reject the recourse to violence, cut off all ties with terrorist organisations, take concrete steps to enhance their cooperation and coordination with the Government of Mali to eliminate the terrorist threat, and recognize, without

conditions, the unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State, within the framework of the Agreement;

6. *Urges* all parties in Mali to cooperate fully with the deployment and activities of MINUSMA, in particular by ensuring the safety, security and freedom of movement of MINUSMA's personnel with unhindered and immediate access throughout the territory of Mali to enable MINUSMA to carry out fully its mandate;

7. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to cooperate fully and coordinate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and MINUSMA, in particular on the implementation of the Agreement;

8. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali to use his good offices to encourage and support the full implementation of the Agreement, in particular by playing a central role to support and oversee the implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, notably by heading the Secretariat of the *Comité de suivi de l'Accord* (CSA), and in particular, to assist the Malian parties in identifying and prioritizing implementation steps, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement;

9. *Calls on* the members of the CSA and other relevant international partners to sustain their support to the implementation of the Agreement, including through the appointment of an independent observer as provided for in article 53 of the Agreement, and to coordinate their efforts with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and MINUSMA in this regard, and *recognizes* the role of the CSA to reconcile disagreements between the Malian parties;

10. *Affirms* that the gradual restoration and extension of State authority across the territory of Mali, in particular the reformed and reconstituted Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF), consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, would contribute significantly to the stability of Mali and to deter the terrorist threat, and, in this regard, *encourages* bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their support to accelerate the redeployment of the MDSF, once reformed and reconstituted, to the north of Mali, particularly by providing relevant equipment and training, in coordination with the Government of Mali and MINUSMA and within the Framework of the Agreement;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of Mali to finalize its strategy for the development of the North of Mali and the national emergency plan, *welcomes* the significant contributions of partners following the International Conference for the economic recovery and development of Mali held in Paris on 22 October 2015, *encourages* the effective fulfilment of the commitments made during this conference, and *urges* the Government of Mali to disburse the funds already received;

12. *Urges* the Government of Mali to engage with the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for Mali, in order to establish concrete benchmarks and timelines to assess the progress of the Malian parties toward the full and effective implementation of the Agreement and *expresses* its intention to keep under review the mandate and deployment of MINUSMA, including through considering the gradual handing over of some of MINUSMA's sites to the MDSF once reconstituted and redeployed in the framework of the Agreement;

13. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations agencies, as well as regional, bilateral and multilateral partners to provide the necessary support to contribute to the implementation of the Agreement by the Malian parties, in particular its provisions pertaining to socioeconomic and cultural development, and, in this regard, *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure an efficient division of tasks and complementarity of efforts between MINUSMA and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), based on their comparative advantages, to support the implementation of the Agreement;

MINUSMA's mandate

14. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2017;

15. *Decides* to increase the force levels of MINUSMA up to a ceiling of 13,289 military personnel, and 1,920 police personnel, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to expedite force and asset generation, as well as deployment, including as set out in paragraph 41 below;

16. *Decides* that the strategic priority of MINUSMA is to support the implementation by the Government, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, as well as by other relevant Malian stakeholders, of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, in particular its provisions related to the gradual restoration and extension of State authority;

17. *Authorizes* MINUSMA to take all necessary means to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

18. *Requests* MINUSMA to move to a more proactive and robust posture to carry out its mandate;

19. *Decides* that MINUSMA's mandate shall include the following priority tasks:

(a) Support to the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali

(i) To support the implementation of the political and institutional reforms provided by the Agreement, especially in its Part II, notably to support the Government's efforts for the effective and restoration and extension of State authority and rule of law throughout the territory, including through supporting the effective establishment of interim administrations in the North of Mali under the conditions set out in the Agreement;

(ii) To support the implementation of the defence and security measures of the Agreement, especially its Part III and Annex 2, notably:

– to support, monitor and supervise the ceasefire and to report to the Security Council on violations of it,

– to support the redeployment of the reformed and reconstituted Malian Defence and Security Forces especially (MDSF) in the Centre and North of Mali,

– to support the cantonment, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups, including through the integration of elements of the signatory armed groups in the MDSF as an interim measure, within the framework of the reform of the security sector, and without prejudice to the anticipated plans of

the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration and integration commissions;

– to ensure coherence of international efforts, in close collaboration with other bilateral partners, donors and international organisations, including the European Union, engaged in these fields, to rebuild the Malian security sector, within the framework set out by the Agreement;

(iii) To support the implementation of the reconciliation and justice measures of the Agreement, especially in its Part V, including with respect to the establishment of an international commission of inquiry, in consultation with the parties, and support the operationalization of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission;

(iv) To support, within its resources and areas of deployment, the conduct of inclusive, free, fair and transparent local elections, as well as the holding of a constitutional referendum, including through the provision of appropriate logistical assistance and security arrangements, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement;

(v) To take into account the particular needs of women associated with armed groups, and to provide for their full access to Disarmament Demobilization Reintegration (DDR) programmes, inter alia, through consultation with women's organizations;

(b) Good offices and reconciliation

To exercise good offices, confidence-building and facilitation at the national and local levels, in order to support dialogue with and among all stakeholders towards reconciliation and social cohesion, to support efforts to reduce intercommunal tensions, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Malian authorities, and to encourage and support the full implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, including by promoting the participation of civil society, including women's organisations, as well as youth organisations;

(c) Protection of civilians and stabilization, including against asymmetric threats

(i) To protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Malian authorities, civilians under threat of physical violence;

(ii) In support of the Malian authorities, to stabilize the key population centres and other areas where civilians are at risk, notably in the North and Centre of Mali, and, in this regard, to enhance early warning, to anticipate, deter and counter threats, including asymmetric threats, and to take robust and active steps to protect civilians, including through active and effective patrolling in areas where civilians are at risk, and to prevent the return of armed elements to those areas, engaging in direct operations pursuant only to serious and credible threats;

(iii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through Child Protection Advisors and Women Protection Advisors, and address the needs of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;

(d) Countering asymmetric attacks in active defence of MINUSMA's mandate

In pursuit of its priorities and active defence of its mandate, to anticipate and deter threats and to take robust and active steps to counter asymmetric attacks against civilians or United Nations personnel, to ensure prompt and effective responses to threats of violence against civilians and to prevent a return of armed elements to those areas, engaging in direct operations pursuant only to serious and credible threats;

(e) Protection, safety and security of United Nations personnel

To protect the United Nations personnel, notably uniformed personnel, installations and equipment and ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(f) Promotion and protection of human rights

(i) To assist the Malian authorities in their efforts to promote and protect human rights, in particular in the areas of justice and reconciliation, including to support, as feasible and appropriate, the efforts of the Malian authorities, without prejudice to their responsibilities, to bring to justice those responsible for serious abuses or violations of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity in Mali, taking into account the referral by the transitional authorities of Mali of the situation in their country since January 2012 to the International Criminal Court;

(ii) To monitor, help investigate and report to the Security Council and publicly, as appropriate, on violations of international humanitarian law and on violations and abuses of human rights, including all forms of sexual and gender based violence and violations and abuses committed against women and children throughout Mali and to contribute to efforts to prevent such violations and abuses;

(g) Humanitarian assistance

In support of the Malian authorities, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with humanitarian principles, and the voluntary, safe and dignified return or local integration or resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees in close coordination with humanitarian actors;

20. *Further authorizes* MINUSMA to use its existing capacities to assist in implementing the following tasks:

(a) Projects for stabilization

In support of the Malian authorities, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for projects aimed at stabilizing the North of Mali, including quick impact projects;

(b) Weapons and ammunition management

To assist the Malian authorities with the removal and destruction of mines and other explosive devices and weapons and ammunition management;

(c) Support for cultural preservation

To assist the Malian authorities, as necessary and feasible, in protecting from attack the cultural and historical sites in Mali, in collaboration with UNESCO;

(d) Cooperation with the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee

To assist, within its capabilities, its areas of deployment and without prejudice to its mandate, the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established by resolution 1526 (2004), including by passing information relevant to the implementation of the measures in paragraph 2 of resolution 2253 (2015);

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to utilize personnel and expertise within MINUSMA's existing resources to reflect the prioritization of tasks as set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of this resolution, and to continuously adjust this deployment according to the progress made in the implementation of MINUSMA's mandate, consistent with the division of tasks requested in paragraph 13 of this resolution;

22. *Requests* MINUSMA to update its protection of civilians strategy, consistent with paragraph 19 (c) and (d) above and, in this regard, to identify threats to civilians, implement prevention plans and accelerate the coordinated implementation of relevant monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements;

23. *Requests* MINUSMA to further enhance its interaction with the civilian population, as well as its cooperation with the Malian Defence and Security Forces, including through the development of an effective communication strategy and MINUSMA radio, in order to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance cooperation between MINUSMA, UNOWAS and Member States in the region as well as regional security initiatives, notably the G5 Sahel and the African Union Nouakchott Process, including through provision of relevant intelligence and liaison of officers from the G5 Sahel Member States to MINUSMA, in order to increase MINUSMA's awareness of the regional security environment and facilitate the implementation of its mandate;

25. *Requests* MINUSMA to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces, including the MDSF, is provided in strict compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (HRDDP);

26. *Requests* MINUSMA to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Malian authorities in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels and at an early stage of the stabilization phase, including the security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as in reconciliation and electoral processes, *further requests* MINUSMA to

assist the parties to ensure women's full and active participation in the implementation of the Agreement, and further requests enhanced reporting by MINUSMA to the Security Council on this issue;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance of MINUSMA with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses and to keep the Council fully informed if such cases of misconduct occur, and *urges* troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including pre-deployment awareness training, and to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

28. *Requests* MINUSMA to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Malian authorities in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and in security sector reform in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

Capacities of MINUSMA, safety and security of MINUSMA's personnel

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps, including through the full use of existing authorities and at his discretion, to enable MINUSMA to reach its full operational capacity without further delay;

30. *Urges* MINUSMA's troop and police contributing countries to expedite the procurement and deployment of all necessary contingent-owned equipment and *urges* Member States to provide troops and police that have adequate capabilities, pre-deployment and, where appropriate, in situ training and equipment, including enablers, specific to the operating environment, in order for MINUSMA to fulfil its mandate and *welcomes* the assistance of Member States to MINUSMA's troop and police contributing countries in this regard;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate additional measures and, in consultation with troop contributing countries, to identify options, including seeking the support of Member States, to enhance the safety and security of MINUSMA's personnel to enable MINUSMA to execute effectively its mandate in a complex security environment that includes asymmetric threats, including through:

- improving MINUSMA's intelligence capacities, including surveillance and monitoring capacities, within the limits of its mandate,
- providing training and equipment to counter explosive devices, including enhanced support to troop contributing countries to deploy the remaining armoured personnel carriers and other mine-protected vehicles needed under the current Force requirements,
- generating adequate military capabilities to secure MINUSMA's logistical supply routes, including the deployment of combat convoy battalions, as needed,
- implementing more effective casualty and medical evacuation procedures, as well as deploying enhanced medical evacuation capacities,
- taking active and effective measures to improve the planning and functioning of MINUSMA's safety and security facilities and arrangements;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the measures referred to in paragraph 31 above in his regular reports on the situation in Mali;

33. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those in the region, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from Mali of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, which are for the exclusive and official use of MINUSMA, in order to facilitate the timely and cost-effective delivery of the logistical supply of MINUSMA, and in this regard, *requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to facilitate the logistical supply of MINUSMA and to consolidate supply routes, including through using alternative routes and relocating MINUSMA's logistics hubs;

34. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to keep the Mission concept under continuous review, in order to maximize the positive impact of MINUSMA's resources and make operational adjustments where necessary, and *requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed on its implementation;

French forces mandate

35. *Authorizes* French forces, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, to use all necessary means until the end of MINUSMA's mandate as authorized in this resolution, to intervene in support of elements of MINUSMA when under imminent and serious threat upon request of the Secretary-General, and requests France to report to the Council on the implementation of this mandate in Mali and to coordinate its reporting with the reporting by the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 46 below;

Obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law

36. *Urges* the Malian authorities to further combat impunity and, in this regard, to ensure that all perpetrators of crimes involving violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving sexual violence, are held accountable and brought to justice, and also *urges* the Malian authorities to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with Mali's obligations under the Rome Statute;

37. *Urges* all parties to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and relief consignments, and take all required steps to allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unimpeded access of humanitarian actors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all people in need, while respecting the United Nations humanitarian guiding principles and applicable international law;

38. *Reiterates* that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility to protect civilians in Mali, *further recalls* its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014) and 2225 (2015) on Children And Armed Conflict and its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2016), on Women, Peace and Security, *calls upon* MINUSMA and all military forces in Mali to take them into account and to abide by international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, *recalls* the importance of training in this regard, and *urges* all parties to implement the conclusions on Children And

Armed Conflict in Mali adopted by the Security Council working group on 7 July 2014;

Environmental impact of MINUSMA's operations

39. *Requests* MINUSMA to consider the environmental impacts of its operations when fulfilling its mandated tasks and, in this context, to manage them as appropriate and in accordance with applicable and relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations rules and regulations, and to operate mindfully in the vicinity of cultural and historical sites;

Inter-mission cooperation in West Africa

40. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in order to ensure inter-mission cooperation, notably between MINUSMA, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), appropriate transfers of troops and their assets from other United Nations missions to MINUSMA, subject to the following conditions: (i) the Council's information and approval, including on the scope and duration of the transfer, (ii) the agreement of the troop-contributing countries and (iii) the security situation where these United Nations missions are deployed and without prejudice to the performance of their mandates, and, in this regard, *encourages* further steps to enhance inter-mission cooperation in the West African region, as necessary and feasible, and to report thereon for consideration as appropriate;

41. *Endorses* the proposal by the Secretary-General as set out in his reports of 31 March 2016 (S/2016/298) and 31 May 2016 (S/2016/498) to transfer the quick reaction force established by resolution 2162 (2014), as well as the aviation unit supporting it, from UNOCI to MINUSMA, following its withdrawal from UNOCI no later than 31 March 2017, to enhance the operations of MINUSMA to implement its mandate, and also to operate in Liberia, as required in the event of a serious deterioration of the security situation, and *requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council updated on the proposed modalities of transfer of this unit in his upcoming reports on MINUSMA and UNMIL;

Regional and international cooperation on the Sahel

42. *Calls upon* all Member States, notably Sahel, West Africa and Maghreb States, as well as regional, bilateral and multilateral partners, to enhance their coordination, including through the G5 Sahel and the African Union Nouakchott process, to develop inclusive and effective strategies to combat in a comprehensive and integrated manner the activities of terrorist groups crossing borders and seeking safe havens in the Sahel region, notably AQIM, MUJAO, Ansar Eddine and Al Mourabitoune, and to prevent the expansion of those groups as well as to limit the proliferation of all arms and transnational organized crime and other illicit activities such as drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants and human trafficking;

43. *Calls* for the rapid and effective implementation, in consultation with Member States of the Sahel region and bilateral partners and multilateral organisations, of regional strategies encompassing security, governance, development, human rights and humanitarian issues such as the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and *encourages* in this regard the Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel to continue to

support Member States of the region, including of the G5 Sahel, and regional and international organisations, to tackle the challenges to peace, security and development in the Sahel region as well as their root causes;

European Union contribution

44. *Calls on* the European Union, notably its Special Representative for the Sahel and its EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Mali missions, to coordinate closely with MINUSMA and other bilateral partners of Mali engaged to assist the Malian authorities in the Security Sector Reform (SSR), as provided for by the Agreement and consistent with paragraph 19 (c) (ii) above;

Small arms and light weapons

45. *Calls upon* the Malian authorities, with the assistance of MINUSMA, consistent with paragraph 14 above, and international partners, to address the issue of the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in accordance with the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in order to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons, and further stresses the importance of the full implementation of its resolutions 2017 (2011), 2117 (2013) and 2220 (2015);

Reports by the Secretary-General

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every three months after the adoption of this resolution on the implementation of this resolution, focusing on the progress in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and on MINUSMA's efforts to support it, and, in this regard, *requests* the Secretary-General to include in his December report benchmarks and timelines as referred to in paragraph 12, and, then, to report on these benchmarks in his regular reports;

47. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2016/577

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2016
English
Original: French

Letter dated 27 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the thirty-third monthly report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), prepared pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). This report covers the period from 24 May to 23 June 2016.

With respect to the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, the security situation continues to prevent access to destroy the remaining hangar. For the same reason, the OPCW Technical Secretariat remains unable to confirm the condition of two other stationary above-ground facilities.

With respect to the initial declaration and subsequent submissions from the Syrian Arab Republic, a team from the OPCW Technical Secretariat visited the Syrian Arab Republic from 30 May to 3 June. Discussions took place regarding issues remaining to be resolved, and on the latest analytical results from the 23 samples collected by the OPCW Declaration Assessment Team during its visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in January. The Director-General of the OPCW and representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic met in The Hague from 20 to 22 June, again with the aim of resolving all outstanding issues in that regard. This will be the final round of consultations prior to the Director-General's report on this matter to the OPCW Executive Council in advance of its next session from 12 to 15 July.

With regard to the continuing allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, I once again reiterate my deep concern. I reaffirm my total condemnation of the use of such weapons by any party to the conflict.

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism is proceeding with the investigation of the nine selected cases. During the reporting period, the Mechanism continued to receive technical briefings and information relevant to its investigation from a number of Member States. As part of its consultations, the Leadership Panel is scheduled to visit two capitals, upon invitation by the Member States, before the end of June. The Mechanism's investigators are preparing for their third technical visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, scheduled to start on 28 June. The Mechanism also continued its engagement with non-governmental organizations that possess information about

the nine cases under investigation. The Security Council considered the Mechanism's second written report on 16 June.

I reiterate my call on Member States and relevant stakeholders, including from the region, to share promptly information that may help the Mechanism fulfil its mandate. I also stress again the importance of continued cooperation by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic with the requests of the Mechanism for information and/or access.

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme" prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council Decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 24 May to 23 June 2016 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet Üzümcü

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Note by the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) noting the Director-General's intent to include reports of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), along with information on the Council's discussion thereof, as part of the monthly reporting pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). Similarly, the Council, at its Eighty-First Session, adopted a decision entitled "Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016), noting the Director-General's intent to provide information on the implementation of that decision.

4. This, the thirty-third monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions, and includes information relevant to the period from 24 May to 23 June 2016.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

5. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

(a) With respect to the 27 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, the Secretariat has verified the destruction of 24, and three remain to be verified as destroyed. The security situation continues to prevent safe access to destroy the remaining aircraft hangar, which stands ready to accept the explosive charges. The condition of the two stationary above-ground facilities remains unconfirmed, also due to the poor security situation.

(b) On 17 June 2016, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its thirty-first monthly report (EC-82/P/NAT.4, dated 17 June 2016) regarding activities

on its territory related to the destruction of its CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1.

(c) The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation in accordance with the implementation of subparagraph 1(c) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

6. As reported previously, all the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have now been destroyed.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decision EC-81/DEC.4

7. In accordance with the Council's decision at its Eighty-First Session (EC-81/DEC.4), the Director-General, in parallel with the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), has held a series of consultations with senior officials of the Syrian Arab Republic to address the issues identified by the Secretariat in the "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/HP/DG.1, dated 22 February 2016).

8. The most recent rounds of consultations were convened at the expert level in Damascus from 29 May to 4 June 2016, and at the senior level at OPCW Headquarters from 20 to 22 June 2016. Participants in the latter meeting included the Director-General; H.E. Dr Faisal Mekdad, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic; experts from the Secretariat; and experts affiliated with the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

9. As requested by the Council, the Director-General will issue a report that summarizes the outcome of this engagement with officials of the Syrian Arab Republic. The report is currently under preparation and will be distributed to the Council in advance of its Eighty-Second Session, which will be convened from 12 to 15 July 2016.

Other activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

10. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat, on behalf of the Director-General, has continued to brief States Parties in The Hague on its activities.

11. With the contract in place for the maintenance and repair of the remote monitoring systems installed at four of the CWPFs already destroyed (four underground structures) as previously reported, the OPCW is working with the Syrian Arab Republic and the contractor to implement a maintenance schedule and protocol for repairs.

12. As at the cut-off date of this report, one OPCW staff member was deployed as part of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Supplementary resources

13. As previously reported, a Trust Fund for Syria Missions was established in November 2015 to support the FFM and other remaining activities, such as those of the DAT. As at the cut-off date of this report, contribution agreements totalling EUR 7.8 million had been concluded with Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United States of America, and the European Union. Pledges from other donors have been made and are currently being processed.

Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

14. In the reporting period, the FFM continued to study all available information relating to allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, and will be guided in its work by Council decisions EC-M-48/DEC.1 and EC-M-50/DEC.1 (dated 23 November 2015), and United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015). The OPCW also continued to extend its full cooperation and support to the Joint Investigative Mechanism.

Conclusion

15. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will be on the implementation of the Council's March 2016 decision (EC-81/DEC.4), as well as on the destruction and verification of the remaining aircraft hangar, confirmation of the status of the two stationary above-ground facilities, and annual inspections of the underground structures already verified as destroyed.

United Nations S/2016/578

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2016

Original: English

Russian Federation and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) of 8 June 2016 (S/2016/520), and also reaffirming its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

Stressing that both parties must abide by the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and scrupulously observe the ceasefire,

Concurring with the Secretary-General's findings that the ongoing military activities conducted by any actor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries, and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground,

Expressing grave concern at all violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement,

Stressing that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF,

Strongly condemning the continued fighting in the area of separation, *calling* on all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions in the UNDOF area of operations and to respect international humanitarian law,

Condemning the use of heavy weapons by both the Syrian armed forces and armed groups in the ongoing Syrian conflict in the area of separation, including the use of tanks by the Syrian armed forces and opposition during clashes,

Echoing the Secretary-General's call upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the UNDOF area of operations,

Reaffirming its readiness to consider listing individuals, groups, undertakings and entities providing support to ISIL or to the Al-Nusra Front, including those who are financing, arming, planning, or recruiting for ISIL or the Al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with ISIL and

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Al-Qaida under the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime, including those participating in or otherwise supporting attacks against United Nations peacekeepers,

Recognizing the necessity of efforts to flexibly adjust UNDOF's posture on a temporary basis to minimize the security risk to UN personnel as UNDOF continues to implement its mandate, while emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for the peacekeepers to return to their positions in UNDOF's area of operations as soon as practicable,

Emphasizing the importance of Security Council and troop-contributing countries having access to reports and information related to UNDOF's current temporary configuration, and *reinforcing* that such information assists the Security Council with evaluating, mandating and reviewing UNDOF and with effective consultation with troop-contributing countries,

Underscoring the need for UNDOF to have at its disposal all necessary means and resources to carry out its mandate safely and securely, including technology and equipment to enhance its observation of the area of separation and the ceasefire line, and to improve force protection, as appropriate, and *recalling* that the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets, and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities, are unacceptable,

Expressing its profound appreciation to UNDOF's military and civilian personnel, including those from Observer Group Golan, for their service and continued contribution, in an increasingly challenging operating environment, *underscoring* the important contribution UNDOF's continued presence makes to peace and security in the Middle East, *welcoming* steps taken to enhance the safety and security of UNDOF, including Observer Group Golan personnel, and *stressing* the need for continued vigilance to ensure the safety and security of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan personnel,

Strongly condemning incidents threatening the safety and security of United Nations personnel in recent months,

Expressing its appreciation to UNDOF for the efforts made to upgrade and expand its positions on Mount Hermon, including the establishment of a new position,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's plan for UNDOF to return incrementally to vacated positions, starting with Camp Faouar on the Bravo side, conditions permitting, given improvements in security in the northern part of the area of separation.

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Stresses* the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, *calls on* the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, *encourages* the parties to take advantage of UNDOF's liaison function regularly to address issues of mutual concern, as appropriate, and *underscores* that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation, including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces;

3. *Underlines* that there should be no military activity of the armed opposition groups in the area of separation, and urges Member States to convey strongly to the Syrian armed opposition groups in UNDOF's area of operations to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord the United Nations personnel on the ground the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely;

4. *Calls on* all groups other than UNDOF to abandon all UNDOF positions and the Quneitra crossing point, and return the peacekeepers' vehicles, weapons and other equipment;

5. *Calls on* all parties to cooperate fully with and facilitate the operations of UNDOF, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, including the unimpeded delivery of UNDOF equipment and the temporary use of alternative ports of entry and departure, as required, to ensure safe and secure troop rotation and resupply activities, in conformity with existing agreements, and *urges* prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries of any actions that impede UNDOF's ability to fulfil its mandate;

6. *Recognizes* the need to put in place efficient and secure temporary procedures for UNDOF personnel crossing between the Alpha and Bravo sides in the absence of the established crossing at Quneitra, and in this regard, calls on the parties to constructively engage with UNDOF, with the understanding that the Quneitra crossing will be re-opened as soon as security conditions permit;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expedite preparations for the return of an UNDOF presence to Camp Faouar, conditions permitting;

8. *Welcomes* continued efforts to plan for UNDOF's expeditious return, including the provision of adequate force protection, to vacated positions in the Area of Separation, based on a continuous assessment of security in the area;

9. *Encourages* the parties to the Disengagement Agreement to engage constructively to make the necessary temporary arrangements with UNDOF for the force's return to vacated positions, taking into account existing agreements;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

11. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a period of six months, that is, until 31 December 2016, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that UNDOF has the required capacity and resources to fulfil the mandate in a safe and secure way;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).

United Nations S/2016/579

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2016

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraphs 50 and 52 of Security Council resolution 2277 (2016). It covers major developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since my report of 9 March 2016 (S/2016/233); progress in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO); and an update on the ways in which MONUSCO will be best prepared to address security risks and to monitor and report on human rights violations and abuses in the context of the elections scheduled for November 2016. It concludes with observations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the way forward.

II. Major developments

A. Political situation

2. The national dialogue proposed by the President, Joseph Kabila, to overcome the electoral impasse and defuse political tensions did not gain traction during the reporting period. The ruling Majorité présidentielle coalition continued to express support for the initiative, while the political opposition and parts of civil society maintained scepticism regarding the initiative, which they viewed as an attempt by the ruling coalition to prolong the President's stay in power beyond the constitutionally limited term that will end in December 2016.

3. On 6 April, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission appointed the former Prime Minister of Togo, Edem Kodjo, as the Facilitator for the national dialogue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and called upon all stakeholders to extend to him their full cooperation. Mr. Kodjo pursued his consultations with stakeholders in Kinshasa and established a working group comprising members of civil society to begin preparations for the dialogue and the establishment of a preparatory committee. In a letter dated 11 April addressed to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Dynamique de l'opposition and the Groupe des sept (G7) opposition platforms, which had rejected consultations with the Facilitator, proposed the establishment of a panel of representatives of the African Union, the

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United Nations, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United States of America to facilitate the dialogue among political stakeholders.

4. Throughout the period under review, my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Maman Sidikou, continued his engagement with political stakeholders across the spectrum to encourage them to participate in the political dialogue process. On 17 May, in a letter addressed to the African Union, the Secretariat reiterated its support for the efforts of Mr. Kodjo and proposed an exchange between the African Union and the United Nations to mobilize international support for the facilitation. The Facilitator, my Special Representative and my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, travelled to Addis Ababa on 1 June for consultations with the African Union Commission with regard to the national dialogue. In a joint communiqué issued on 6 June, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations reiterated the importance of political dialogue and their support for the African Union Facilitator, and announced the establishment of a support group for the facilitation. The support group would include representatives of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

5. At the initiative of the leader of the Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS), Etienne Tshisekedi, the main opposition parties and civil society organizations met in Genval, Belgium, on 8 and 9 June to reach a common position in the light of the electoral impasse and to prevent what they termed a "constitutional coup d'état" by the President. On 10 June, the Alternance pour la République, the Dynamique de l'opposition, G7, the Majorité présidentielle populaire, UDPS and several civil society organizations signed a letter of commitment in which they underscored the need to respect the Constitution and to hold elections within the constitutional time frame. The meeting rejected the holding of a referendum to approve a new constitution following a call from a senior member of the Majorité présidentielle coalition for the removal of the term limit. It also denounced the Government for approving the registration of dissident wings of political parties under the same name and called for the release of political detainees. With regard to the dialogue, the meeting stated its opposition to the national dialogue under the terms of the President's ordinance of 28 November 2015, and called instead for political dialogue to be held in accordance with resolution 2277 (2016) by the international facilitator with the support of a panel comprising representatives of the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United States. Following a meeting with Mr. Kodjo held in Brussels on 17 June, Mr. Tshisekedi reiterated the opposition's stand with regard to the dialogue, in keeping with the outcome of the Genval meeting.

6. At a press conference on 10 June, the Secretary-General of the Majorité présidentielle and Speaker of the National Assembly, Aubin Minaku, rejected the outcome of the meeting in Genval, arguing that the opposition was preparing a coup d'état and warning against any initiative that would amount to the toppling of the democratically elected institutions. He called upon the African Union Facilitator to proceed with his efforts to establish the preparatory committee in anticipation of the holding of the national dialogue, while encouraging the National Independent Electoral Commission to continue with preparations for the revision of the voter

register. In a communiqué issued on 14 June, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region summit of Heads of State and Government commended the Government for the preparations for political dialogue aimed at creating a conducive climate for the next elections and urged all Congolese political actors to participate and extend support to the international facilitator appointed by the African Union.

7. There were a number of other developments during the period under review, which contributed to heightening political tensions and deepening divisions between the Government and the opposition. On 18 April, 286 members of the National Assembly from the Majorité présidentielle and the opposition, including 12 representatives of UDPS, submitted a request for the Constitutional Court to interpret articles 70, 103, 105 and 197 of the Constitution. On 11 May, the Constitutional Court ruled that the Constitution provided for the President and Members of Parliament to remain in office until the assumption of duties of the new office holders.

8. The ruling of the Constitutional Court exacerbated the polarization of the political class in the country. The Deputy Secretary-General of the President's Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie, Ramazani Shadari, characterized the ruling as a victory for the people and the stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while the political opposition rejected the ruling. On 14 May, G7, the Dynamique de l'opposition and the Front citoyen opposition platforms issued a joint statement indicating that the ruling violated the Constitution, and announced the undertaking of "large-scale actions to salvage the nation", including demonstrations on 26 May.

9. Tensions rose in Lubumbashi following the arrest on 24 April of four collaborators of the former Governor of Katanga, Moïse Katumbi, including a United States citizen accused by the judiciary of being a mercenary, and the Government's announcement on 4 May to open a judicial inquiry into the alleged presence of foreign mercenaries at the service of Mr. Katumbi. Both Mr. Katumbi and the Government of the United States rejected the allegations. On the same day, G7 announced that Mr. Katumbi would run for President as the candidate of the Alternance pour la République and G7 opposition groups.

10. On 7 May, Mr. Katumbi received a summons to appear before the Director of Public Prosecutions in Lubumbashi on 9 May. Suspected agents of the national intelligence services reportedly conducted a search of Mr. Katumbi's farm outside Lubumbashi. Mr. Katumbi appeared before the Director of Public Prosecutions on 9 May, with crowds gathering outside the building. The MONUSCO leadership engaged with the provincial government authorities and representatives of political parties to advocate for restraint. Hearings continued on 11 and 13 May; the national police was deployed to manage the crowd. On 13 May, while entering the court building, Mr. Katumbi was exposed to tear gas fired by the national police to disperse demonstrators. He and two of his close collaborators were injured during clashes between the police and demonstrators. Twenty-nine demonstrators were arrested and five injured by the police on 9, 11 and 13 May in the context of the hearings.

11. On 19 May, the Court indicted Mr. Katumbi on charges of undermining national security, and the Director of Public Prosecutions in Lubumbashi issued an arrest warrant. On 20 May, Mr. Katumbi left the country with the permission of the

Congolese authorities to receive medical treatment abroad. The foreign citizen allegedly serving as a mercenary was handed over to the Embassy of the United States in Kinshasa on 7 June, and subsequently left the country. The case remains pending before the court. In a separate lawsuit, on 22 June, a district court in Lubumbashi sentenced Mr. Katumbi in absentia to three years in prison and the payment of a fine of $1 million for forgery.

12. At the initiative of the opposition parties, including the Dynamique de l'opposition, the Front citoyen, G7 and UDPS, demonstrations were held on 26 May in several cities across the Democratic Republic of the Congo to protest against the ruling of 11 May of the Constitutional Court and to call for the holding of presidential elections within constitutional timelines. The protests were also directed against the continued violence and human rights violations against civilians perpetrated by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and affiliated groups in the Beni area, in North Kivu. My Special Representative proactively engaged senior government officials and representatives of political parties ahead of the demonstrations and issued a communiqué on 25 May in which he called upon all parties to refrain from violence.

13. Violent clashes between the police and demonstrators were reported in a number of locations, including Beni, Goma and Mbandaka, where local authorities had banned the demonstrations. At least 2 civilians were killed and 23 injured. According to the national police, 14 police officers were injured during the demonstrations. Before and during the demonstrations of 26 May, 101 demonstrators were arrested, 9 of whom, including 2 minors, remain in detention. One police officer was reportedly arrested, tried and sentenced to 10 years in prison for violation of orders and firing live ammunition during demonstrations in Mbandaka.

14. Following an increase in reported violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms relating to the electoral process, concerns continued to be voiced about diminishing political space. Calls for demonstrations were preceded by arrests of individuals affiliated with the opposition and intimidation by the Agence nationale de renseignement (ANR) and the national police. On 22 April, in Lubumbashi, nine members of the Union nationale des fédéralistes du Congo (UNAFEC), a member party of G7, received sentences of between 5 and 10 years in prison for rebellion and robbery. Six of them, including the President of UNAFEC, were requested to pay a fine of $10,000 for destruction of property. During the same trial, two members of UNAFEC were acquitted and a minor was referred to the juvenile court. On 24 April, in Lubumbashi, the police dispersed a G7 rally and arbitrarily arrested at least 35 collaborators of Mr. Katumbi and supporters of G7; security forces subsequently released all except four persons, who were transferred to ANR in Kinshasa. There were also reports of ANR officers disrupting a meeting of the Mouvement social pour le renouveau (MSR), a member party of the G7 platform, in Lubumbashi on 14 March. On 21 May, 27 individuals were arrested and subsequently released during a peaceful demonstration held by Dynamique Congo, an opposition party, in solidarity with the victims of violence committed by ADF in Beni.

15. Divisions within the opposition parties and the registration of some of the dissident wings of the G7 political opposition parties also exacerbated tensions. On 26 April, in Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga, the headquarters of the Union nationale des

démocrates fédéralistes, a member of G7, was vandalized and set on fire by unidentified individuals. There were also reports of violent altercations on the same day between rival factions of MSR in an attempt to take control of the offices of the party in several cities. On 4 May, in Bukavu, South Kivu, the Office of the Prosecutor ordered the faction of the party that had decided to remain with the Majorité présidentielle to occupy the Bukavu office of MSR.

16. On 21 June, in The Hague, the International Criminal Court sentenced Jean-Pierre Bemba, the former leader of the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC) and former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to 18 years in prison for his command responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by MLC troops in the Central African Republic between October 2002 and March 2003.

B. Electoral developments

17. On 12 March, provincial assemblies elected bureaux in the 21 new provinces. The Majorité présidentielle controls the assemblies in 18 provinces and the opposition party MLC in three provinces (Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Ubangi and Tshuapa). Gubernatorial elections were held on 26 March, in which the provincial assemblies elected governors in the new provinces to replace the special commissioners who had been appointed by the President on 29 October 2015. In 15 of the 21 provinces, the elections confirmed the former special commissioners or the deputies in their posts. Overall, 16 elected governors are affiliated with the Majorité présidentielle and 5 are either independent or affiliated with the opposition, namely, the Alliance des travaillistes pour le développement and the Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo.

18. The National Independent Electoral Commission focused its efforts on preparations for updating the voter register and launched the administrative and procurement process for the biometric kits, voter cards and supplies needed for the revision of the register. Progress was also made in completing the legislative framework for voter registration. On 3 June, the National Assembly passed amendments to the law on voter registration, which is now under examination by the Senate.

19. During the period under review, the Government disbursed $20 million to the National Independent Electoral Commission for preparations for the elections. The multi-partner basket fund for the Projet d'appui au cycle électoral au Congo, managed by the United Nations Development Programme, remained funded at only around 6 per cent of the estimated budget of $123.3 million to support the electoral process, with donors having conditioned any further commitment of resources on certain clarifications with regard to the process.

20. From 24 April to 10 May, I deployed an electoral advisory mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assess issues surrounding the electoral process and to formulate recommendations for United Nations support for voter registration. The advisory mission proposed, for consideration by national stakeholders, three possible options for the revision of the voter register. The options are: (a) to use the existing voter register; (b) to conduct a partial update of the voter register to include youth who had reached the age of 18 years since 2011 (around 8.5 million), the diaspora (around 4.5 million) and non-registered or omitted voters in 2011

(around 4 million), which would take nine and a half months, followed by elections three and a half months later; and (c) to carry out a full update of the voter register within a time frame of ten and a half months, followed by elections three and a half months later.

C. Security situation

21. Civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to suffer from armed violence, in particular in the Beni area, in spite of efforts by the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and MONUSCO to address the threat. During the period under review, presumed ADF elements and other affiliated armed groups killed 76 civilians, abducted at least 30 others and staged 9 ambushes against FARDC. On 3 and 6 May, suspected ADF elements attacked two villages in the Eringeti area and killed 36 civilians and wounded 17, including children and pregnant women. The assailants also abducted 17 civilians and looted and destroyed property. Attacks against FARDC positions continued, while a direct attack on MONUSCO occurred on 24 March at Semiliki, which was repelled by the peacekeepers at the base. According to Congolese civil society, more than 1,000 people have been killed in the Beni area since October 2014. The Congolese authorities responded to the incidents by relocating the FARDC Operation Sukola I command from the town of Beni to Eringeti, while temporarily moving the provincial security committee from Goma to Beni. With the support of MONUSCO, Congolese military justice authorities were deployed to the area from 13 to 22 May to expedite criminal judicial proceedings.

22. The FARDC-led Operation Sukola II, against the Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and allied elements, continued in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu, with new offensives launched by FARDC, with support from MONUSCO, targeting the FDLR leadership. Nevertheless, FDLR remained active in the province; there were continued reports of attacks against civilians, kidnappings for ransom and clashes with Mayi-Mayi groups, resulting in significant displacement of the population. On 15 April, a biometric registration centre for Rwandan refugees jointly operated by the National Commission for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was attacked and looted by suspected FDLR elements.

23. Some progress was made against FDLR; the Congolese authorities arrested and referred to justice two high-profile FDLR members. On 20 March, Ladislas Ntaganzwa, a senior member of FDLR, who faces charges of genocide and other crimes against humanity, was transferred, with support from MONUSCO, to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. On 28 April, in Goma, the Congolese authorities arrested "General" Leopold Mujyambere, the chief of staff of the Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda-Forces combattantes Abacunguzi (FDLR-FOCA). At the same time, an apparent split in the leadership of FDLR-FOCA was reported when "Colonel" Wilson Irategeka, the group's Second-Vice-President, was suspended on 23 May after accusations of "treason" for allegedly being involved in the arrest of "General" Mujyambere. "Colonel" Irategeka and his followers reportedly established a new movement, the National Council for Renewal and Democracy.

24. Also in North Kivu, attacks against civilians by the Nduma défense du Congo-renouveau, the Union des patriotes pour la défense des innocents and various other Mayi-Mayi groups continued in Lubero, Rutshuru and Walikale territories. In Lubero and Walikale territories, a coalition of local Mayi-Mayi groups of the Nduma défense du Congo-renouveau and the Union des patriotes pour la défense des innocents was reportedly involved in the killing of civilians perceived to be supporting FDLR in the context of ongoing intercommunal tensions between Nande and Hutu communities. A large number of members of the Hutu community remain internally displaced in Buleusa, in Walikale territory. On 16 June, in Buleusa, MONUSCO troops engaged Mayi-Mayi elements who had been trying to impede the distribution of food by humanitarians to internally displaced persons, resulting in the death of nine Mayi-Mayi elements.

25. In South Kivu, FARDC continued operations against Mayi-Mayi Raiya Mutomboki and other Mayi-Mayi groups in Fizi, Mwenga, Shabunda and Uvira territories. The situation remained volatile in the Ruzizi Plains and in some parts of Kabare, Kalehe, Mwenga and Shabunda territories, where the presence and activities of armed groups continued to be a destabilizing factor.

26. In Ituri province, elements of the Forces de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) continued to attack civilians and loot villages. Around 41 attacks against civilians and FARDC were registered in April, especially in Gety and Aveba and surrounding areas. There was a significant increase in violations from previous reporting periods. FARDC operations against FRPI continued with support from MONUSCO, including through "Operation Torche", aimed at dismantling FRPI camps. Elsewhere in Ituri, Mayi-Mayi elements carried out frequent attacks, including an attack on 19 April on an FARDC position near Biakatu (south of Mambasa), during which MONUSCO supported FARDC in regaining control of the situation.

27. In Bas-Uélé and Haut-Uélé, since April, there has been a surge in the activity of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), owing mainly to the infiltration of suspected LRA elements from South Sudan and the Central African Republic fleeing the pressure of military operations within the framework of the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army. LRA elements and poachers carried out a series of ambushes around Garamba National Park, resulting in the killing of at least five FARDC personnel. On 23 April, during an exchange of fire with poachers, three park rangers were killed and the Director of the National Park was seriously wounded. In response, FARDC sent reinforcements to the area.

28. In Tanganyika province, Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga continued to destabilize parts of Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto territories, where the armed group reportedly killed six civilians in four separate incidents during the reporting period. In March, following a series of reconciliation meetings supported by MONUSCO between the Batwa and Luba groups, there was a significant reduction in tensions and the return of more than 650 families to their homes in the Sange area, in Kasenga territory.

D. Protection of civilians and neutralization of armed groups

29. MONUSCO pursued efforts to protect civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 70 per cent of the human rights violations committed

during the period under review were registered. MONUSCO carried out day and night patrols and joint assessment missions, as well as targeted visits of joint protection teams to areas of concern in Bas-Uélé, Haut-Uélé, Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. MONUSCO reinforced its civilian capacity in its Beni office with a view to strengthening its protection response in this particularly volatile area. MONUSCO continued to support State institutions with protection responsibilities, including through awareness-raising and advocacy with local authorities, and intercommunal dialogue initiatives to reduce community support for armed groups while supporting judicial processes against the leaders of armed groups.

30. The community alert networks transmitted 225 early warning alerts per month on average, which represented a 25 per cent increase from the previous reporting period. Most of the alerts resulted in a response by FARDC, the national police, other local authorities or MONUSCO.

31. The Mine Action Service of the United Nations continued to support the efforts of MONUSCO to protect civilians, including through the destruction of 2,162 explosive remnants of war, 33 weapons and 11,274 rounds of small arms ammunition. The Mine Action Service also expanded its support to the national police by providing infrastructure for safe weapons storage, technical advice and training in Bukavu and Bunia.

32. In North Kivu, MONUSCO continued to support the FARDC-led Operation Sukola I in Beni territory, in compliance with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, and to maintain military pressure on ADF in the triangle between Bilimani, Madina and Sesele. The objective of the operations was to destroy four ADF camps and deny the armed group freedom of movement in the "triangle" area. After weeks of joint planning, FARDC redeployed several battalions into the Beni area, assisted by MONUSCO through air transport. On 14 May, FARDC and MONUSCO launched a coordinated operation against ADF. By 21 May, after seven days of combat, a total of five ADF camps had been destroyed by FARDC. Overall, 24 ADF elements had been killed and four others captured, including one child associated with ADF. Some elements of ADF managed to escape from the "triangle" area and fled northwards. Further operations are being planned to consolidate the gains. MONUSCO troops, including special forces and the Force Intervention Brigade, were directly engaged in this coordinated operation. In addition to providing tactical support to FARDC, MONUSCO provided artillery fire support, facilitated front-line medical evacuations and provided logistical support relating to food, water and ammunition.

33. During the period under review, FARDC and MONUSCO resumed cooperation in operations against FDLR in North Kivu. On 23 May, jointly planned military operations against FDLR resumed in North Kivu as part of Operation Sukola II, targeting the FDLR leadership. Within the broader framework of this operation, the coordinated FARDC-MONUSCO Operation Nyamulgira was launched on 24 May. As at 27 May, FARDC had captured eight FDLR elements, who were transferred to Goma with the support of MONUSCO.

E. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration

34. The implementation of Phase III of the Programme national de désarmement, démobilisation et reintegration is progressing. Ninety-five Congolese combatants entered the programme during the period under review and 93 foreign combatants were repatriated, while 50 weapons with 501 rounds of ammunition were collected. In addition, 4,575 ex-combatants in the Kamina (Haut Lomami) and Kitona (Kongo Central) camps completed vocational training and are awaiting reintegration. However, the Government has suspended their planned return, originally envisaged for April, owing to incomplete community preparations and the volatile security situation in many of the return destinations.

35. A total of 612 ex-combatants were reportedly transferred from the Kamina and Kitona camps to the Rwampara (Bunia) camp for military training and subsequent integration into FARDC, and 18 ex-combatants allegedly deserted the Rwampara camp.

36. On 15 June, clashes erupted between ex-combatants in the Kamina camp and FARDC amid protests against the delayed reinsertion. The incident reportedly resulted in the death of at least 10 ex-combatants and 3 FARDC soldiers.

37. MONUSCO continued to provide food, medicine and fuel to support 1,322 FDLR combatants and their dependants in transit camps at Kanyabayonga (North Kivu) and Walungu (South Kivu), as well as in the Government-run camp at Kisangani (Tshopo). From 23 to 26 May, my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region led a visit to North Kivu by the guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, SADC and the United Nations). The guarantors encouraged the FDLR combatants in the Kanyabayonga camp to return to Rwanda without preconditions; assured them of the international community's commitment to supporting a safe and dignified process; and indicated that there was no prospect of their relocation to a third country.

F. Consolidation of State authority and stabilization

38. MONUSCO continued to assist the Government in the implementation of stabilization initiatives through the Stabilization Coherence Trust Fund, funded by the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. On 31 March, the first contract was allocated in Kitchanga (North Kivu) under the democratic dialogue pillar of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy. On 6 April, the Trust Fund agreed to allocate $17 million for projects responding to the objectives of the provincial stabilization strategies and action plans in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. MONUSCO also provided advisory services to bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure that stabilization projects not funded through the Trust Fund were aligned with the Strategy.

39. In the midterm review of pilot programmes of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy in Mambasa (Ituri) and Kalehe (South Kivu), funded by Norway and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund within the framework of the Strategy, progress in implementation was noted. The programme in Kalehe led to

the resolution of 60 land conflicts; the provision of training to 30 police officers and 45 civil servants; the construction of three police stations; and the rehabilitation of roads. In Mambasa territory, recent achievements included improved access to justice: 24 of 128 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were referred to the judiciary for prosecution, while 34 vulnerable people benefited from legal aid in accessing the military and civilian justice systems. Moreover, 31 long-lasting judicial cases were finalized with the support of mobile courts. In areas in which the programmes are being implemented, communities have reported decreased reliance on armed groups for protection and improved collaboration with local authorities to address impunity.

40. In May, MONUSCO launched jointly with the Ministry of the Interior a capacity- and confidence-building project for security actors and local communities in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. MONUSCO also partnered with provincial authorities in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tshopo to provide training to 318 representatives of local authorities, including customary chiefs, civil servants and members of civil society, on decentralized governance, planning and budgeting to improve local governance, and accountability.

G. Human rights situation

41. MONUSCO continued to document the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. The Mission registered 1,153 allegations of human rights violations during the period under review. Most of the alleged violations (712) were committed in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Armed groups accounted for 38 per cent and State actors for 62 per cent of the alleged violations. MONUSCO documented an increasing trend of allegations of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms. More precisely, there was an increase in allegations of violations of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of speech. These violations concern mainly the political and civil rights and other fundamental freedoms that the Government has an obligation to protect under the Constitution and relevant international instruments it has ratified.

42. Congolese military justice authorities prioritized 17 cases of international crimes committed by FARDC, FDLR, FRPI and other armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, for investigation and prosecution, with support from MONUSCO and the United Nations Development Programme. The case against Mayi-Mayi Simba elements accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes was closed in April with one conviction, carrying a six-year prison term, and nine acquittals.

43. MONUSCO followed up on the situation of arbitrarily detained persons and supported the relocation of women detainees in Butembo prison to a newly constructed section funded by MONUSCO. The Mission also provided logistical support to the Gety and Mambasa prisons in Ituri province, continued to advocate for the improvement of prisoner health care and implemented food security programmes for detainees.

H. Sexual violence

44. Thirty-eight persons, including 32 minors, were reported to be victims of conflict-related sexual violence. Armed groups were reportedly responsible for 68 per cent of those abuses and State actors for 32 per cent. FARDC was allegedly responsible for 24 per cent of the violations, while FDLR and FRPI were reportedly responsible for 21 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively. MONUSCO assisted FARDC with the review of training materials on sexual violence. The Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict provided advisory and technical support to the military justice authorities.

I. Child protection

45. MONUSCO documented 589 cases of grave violations of children's rights. This is a significant increase from the previous reporting period, during which 214 cases were documented. A total of 495 children (420 boys and 75 girls) were separated or escaped from armed groups. This indicates a considerable increase from the previous reporting period, owing to enhanced military operations against armed groups in North Kivu and effective information-sharing among child protection partners in the field. The main armed groups recruiting children were FDLR-FOCA (146), Mayi-Mayi Nyatura (97), the Forces populaires pour la démocratie/Mayi-Mayi Bokande (42), the Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda-Ralliement pour l'unité et la démocratie (36), Mayi-Mayi Raiya Mutomboki (35), FRPI (22), the Union des patriotes congolais pour la paix du Général Lafontaine (20) and the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (19). Thirty-four children formerly associated with armed groups were released from FARDC detention. On 5 April, a joint technical working group comprising representatives of the Government, MONUSCO and the United Nations Children's Fund validated the standard operating procedures on age assessment, drafted in August 2015, to help FARDC to establish a procedure to identify children countrywide and thus prevent underage recruitment.

J. Humanitarian situation

46. The humanitarian situation remains dire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 7.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance across the country. Some 1.8 million persons are internally displaced, primarily as a result of activity by armed groups and military operations against these groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. This protracted situation puts a strain on host communities. There are also some 398,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the country, including approximately 245,000 from Rwanda; 113,000 from the Central African Republic; 26,000 from Burundi; and 13,000 from South Sudan.

47. Humanitarian access in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has become increasingly difficult owing to growing insecurity. Several ambushes of vehicles of non-governmental organizations were reported, as well as kidnappings by armed groups, including suspected FDLR, Mayi-Mayi Nyatura and other criminal elements. Since my previous report, 2 humanitarian workers have been killed and 12 others abducted and subsequently released in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

48. The dismantlement of sites for internally displaced persons in North Kivu by the Government resulted in the further displacement of some 45,000 persons. The humanitarian community and MONUSCO continued to advocate for respect by the Government of its international obligations, including with regard to securing areas in which populations were displaced and ensuring that the closure of sites did not increase the vulnerability of internally displaced persons.

49. At the initiative of UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 20 to 27 April and made recommendations with regard to addressing the challenges of protection and assistance, including the search for durable solutions for internally displaced persons before the closure of sites.

50. The Humanitarian Response Plan of $690 million remained funded at only 13.2 per cent, amounting to a total of $91 million, thus constraining the humanitarian response.

K. Economic situation

51. The prevailing international context of falling prices of primary commodity exports led to the degradation of the domestic macroeconomic framework. On 20 April, the Government instructed the Banque centrale du Congo to suspend sine die repayment of value-added taxes difference to companies operating in the country. On 9 May, the Government announced that the growth rate for 2016 was expected to decline from 9 per cent to 6.6 per cent, while the annual inflation rate was evaluated at 1.5 per cent. The scarcity of foreign reserves plunged one of the largest commercial banks in the country, the Banque internationale pour l'Afrique au Congo, into a liquidity crisis, precipitating the provision of a Government bailout envelope evaluated at $60 million. The Banque centrale du Congo placed the Banque internationale pour l'Afrique au Congo under interim management on 30 May, tasked with preparing a recovery plan within 180 days.

52. A draft amendment to the 2016 Finance Law was adopted by the National Assembly and the Senate on 1 and 11 June, respectively. The rectified law, the draft of which remains to be finalized prior to promulgation, reduced government revenue to $7.1 billion against an initial $9.1 billion, with expenditure cuts of 22 per cent. Security institutions, including the armed forces and the police, are subject to a 30 per cent reduction in bonuses paid to combat troops and commanding officers. In addition, some environmental and infrastructure projects were placed on hold.

L. Regional developments

53. My Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, the guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and representatives of the National Oversight Mechanism undertook efforts to advance the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations, particularly with regard to the repatriation of ex-Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) elements.

54. On 12 April, the National Oversight Mechanism called for sanctions against the ex-M23 leadership and an independent assessment of the implementation of regional commitments by all signatories to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. From 23 to 28 April, representatives of the guarantors of the

Framework held consultative meetings in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the national authorities of those countries, the ex-M23 and international partners on ways to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations. From 27 to 28 May, in Kinshasa, representatives of the Government and the ex-M23 met for the first time since the signing of the Nairobi Declarations, in 2013, to review progress made in the implementation of the Declarations. It was decided that a technical meeting would be convened to address contentious issues relating to the implementation of the Declarations. Prior to the meeting, the representatives of the guarantors of the Framework visited Goma, Beni, Eringeti, Kanyabayonga and Nyamilima in North Kivu from 23 to 26 May to assess progress in the neutralization of armed groups.

55. On 30 May, the ex-M23 faction led by Bishop Jean-Marie Runiga, the previous President of the ex-M23, was registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a political party under the name Alliance pour le salut du peuple. In a communiqué issued on 2 June in Kampala, the President of the ex-M23, Bertrand Bisimwa, stated that the leadership of the ex-M23 had not taken any decision to transform the movement into a political party.

56. On 13 May, the Technical Support Committee of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework met in Lusaka to review progress in the implementation of the Framework. The Committee commended preliminary efforts by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to establish a commission on national reconciliation. It also requested my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to convene a regional meeting on the return of refugees, in coordination with UNHCR.

57. In its communiqué of 14 June, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region summit of Heads of State and Government commended the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the efforts towards neutralizing ADF, FDLR and other local negative forces, and encouraged continued joint military operations between MONUSCO and FARDC. It also welcomed the report on the mission of the guarantors on the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations, recommended continued and sustained engagement with the Government and the ex-M23 and pledged support to the agreement reached among the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to formulate a joint follow-up mechanism to address the growing threat posed by ADF.

III. Deployment of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and implementation of its mandate

A. Strategic dialogue and development of an exit strategy for the Mission

58. Following a series of high-level discussions between the MONUSCO leadership and the Government, an agreement was reached to establish a working group of the strategic dialogue to take forward discussions on an exit strategy for the Mission. The key goal of the discussions is to develop jointly agreed criteria to measure progress on the ground, with a view to identifying the minimum conditions

for the eventual transition of the mandated responsibilities of the Mission to the Government or other partners. The working group made some progress towards this goal, including preliminary agreement on some of the conditions that would guide further development of the strategy in line with resolution 2277 (2016).

B. Transformation of the force

59. The MONUSCO force continued efforts to better deliver on the mandate of protection of civilians and neutralization of armed groups. Progress was made in the implementation of the transformation of the force, including through temporary, targeted and timely deployments in high-risk areas.

60. Capability development remains a critical requirement for the transformation of the MONUSCO force, with the establishment of rapidly deployable battalions located in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. The first rapidly deployable battalion deployed in South Kivu is operational, although some equipment has yet to be delivered. So far, it has facilitated access for civilian staff to Kalongo and Kamitunga (South Kivu), thus enhancing liaison with communities and reporting. The enhanced rapid response capacity will be further complemented through the establishment of another two such battalions, projected for February 2017 and January 2018.

C. Preparations for the elections

61. Pursuant to paragraph 52 of resolution 2277 (2016), MONUSCO reviewed its plans to address security risks and to monitor and report on human rights violations and abuses in the context of the elections. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, my Special Representative used his good offices to promote dialogue among all Congolese stakeholders, which remains the most important avenue for reducing the likelihood of violence. MONUSCO also updated its risk analysis, which included an assessment of possible triggers of violence. Particular focus was placed on identifying strategies to enhance civilian monitoring and reporting on human rights with a view to ensuring early warning, particularly in areas identified as being at high risk of unrest and violence in the context of the elections, including areas in which there is no MONUSCO presence. MONUSCO is reviewing its deployment of military and police personnel to ensure adequate deployment on the basis of its updated risk analysis. In order to ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, MONUSCO commenced planning to deploy a helicopter to Kinshasa and to reinforce capabilities in Kisangani and Lubumbashi, including a potential increase in armoured personnel carriers and evacuation plans for remote sites.

62. MONUSCO is developing contingency plans in the event of widespread violence in the context of the electoral process. The contingency plans envisage the possible activation of inter-mission cooperation mechanisms. Similarly, the Mission's operability in conflict-affected areas would be affected should any significant diversion of resources and assets be required in the context of election-related violence.

63. The Mission identified gaps in its presence and capacity to monitor and report on human rights violations and political space throughout the electoral period in Kasai, Haut-Lomami, Lualaba, Sankuru, South Ubangi and North Ubangi provinces, all of which are assessed to be at high risk of election-related violence. On the basis of this risk assessment, the electoral advisory mission to the Democratic Republic of

the Congo recommended the establishment of joint human rights and political monitoring and reporting teams to five additional locations. The Mission has made preliminary efforts to create multidisciplinary monitoring and reporting teams and to enhance overall cooperation with national security institutions. In addition, MONUSCO is proceeding with the creation of three mobile teams in Kinshasa, Goma and Lubumbashi, available for short-term deployments of up to two weeks to potential hotspots to monitor and report on political and human rights issues in the context of elections. The Mission placed additional focus on reinforcing the capacity of State actors and civil society in the field of human rights, raised awareness among the Congolese security forces and conducted monitoring and reporting on human rights violations in the electoral context.

64. MONUSCO continued efforts to train Congolese national police personnel on public order management, with a particular focus on prevention through non-lethal crowd control measures, bringing the total number of personnel trained since July 2015 to 3,499. MONUSCO police also intensified patrols, including in Lubumbashi, to mitigate political tensions.

65. The existing seven formed police units of MONUSCO will continue to provide advice and logistical support to the national police. The Mission is currently developing scenarios and specific triggers, which, if realized, could necessitate the deployment of two additional formed police units in Kisangani and Lubumbashi through possible inter-mission cooperation arrangements.

66. MONUSCO will assist Congolese authorities in the preparations for voter registration, which will require additional resources.

IV. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

67. MONUSCO assessed that its support for FARDC-led operations against armed groups had not led to any discernible increase in threats to United Nations personnel and installations. Fifty-one security-related incidents involving United Nations personnel were reported in the country, of which 44 were hazard- and safety-related.

V. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

68. MONUSCO continued its efforts to enforce my zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse through robust preventive measures and enhanced coordination of assistance to victims. MONUSCO carried out 57 training sessions and 5 assessment missions in Ituri and North Kivu provinces and conducted outreach activities to instruct all personnel on their obligations. The Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Jane Holl Lute, visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 13 to 16 April and met with government officials, the international community, United Nations personnel and local communities in Sake and other high-risk areas in North Kivu. She sought, among other things, to encourage enhanced commitment by United Nations personnel to the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse.

69. MONUSCO continued to work through established mechanisms, such as the dedicated task force and immediate response teams, and collaborated with specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant partners to deliver assistance to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Community-based complaint mechanisms are now operational in Beni, Bunia, Goma, Kalemie, Kavumu, Sake and Uvira.

70. Six possible cases of sexual abuse and exploitation were identified during the period under review. Furthermore, 12 of the 18 allegations associated with the six cases involve the military and refer to the sexual exploitation of minors. All cases were referred to the concerned Member States for appropriate action.

VI. Observations

71. I am concerned about rising political tensions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ahead of the constitutionally envisaged presidential and legislative elections. Delays in the electoral process, a debate around the respect for the Constitution and increasing restrictions on democratic space are fuelling political polarization and public discontent. I underline once again the crucial importance of holding credible political dialogue with all relevant Congolese stakeholders, leading to a consensus that would allow for free, fair, transparent and credible elections to be held in accordance with the framework of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, thus preserving peace and stability in the country and deepening the democratic process and the rule of law. Inclusive and credible dialogue among the stakeholders concerned remains the only viable avenue to address expected delays in the presidential and legislative elections if they are not held in November and to prevent political instability and violence.

72. A lot is at stake in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the international community has invested heavily both in terms of political capital and resources to sustain the hard-won peace in the country. The current political uncertainty has the potential to lead to a serious crisis that would not only compound the pain of the Congolese people, who have already suffered far too much, but also destabilize the subregion. I am concerned that in the absence of a credible and meaningful political dialogue among Congolese stakeholders, tensions could degenerate into a severe crisis, with a high risk of relapse into violence and instability, that would not only reverse the hard-won gains but also require a response beyond the capacity of MONUSCO. As the Mission is stepping up efforts to prevent violence and protect civilians while planning for contingencies, I can only re-emphasize that the most effective prevention of violence is an inclusive and credible dialogue process. I call upon the international community to actively engage in promoting dialogue and preventing a relapse into violence.

73. It is the primary responsibility of the Government and all concerned Congolese stakeholders to maintain peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. I therefore urge all Congolese political stakeholders to engage in good faith in an inclusive and credible dialogue process and to reach consensus on a way forward that will lead to free and fair elections in accordance with the framework of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I reaffirm my full support for the facilitation efforts led by Edem Kodjo on behalf of the African Union, and I welcome the agreement to set up a support group for the facilitation, which also includes representatives of the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and SADC. My Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region will continue to actively support the efforts of the Facilitator. I call upon all Congolese actors to extend their full cooperation to the

Facilitator, recalling that he is acting within the framework of the relevant instruments of Security Council resolution 2277 (2016) and the African Union.

74. I deplore the loss of life and injuries during demonstrations in Bandundu, Butembo, Goma and Kinshasa, and I note with concern the arbitrary arrests, acts of intimidation and repression in other cities. Limitations to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly fuel tension and violence. I urge the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to respect freedom of expression, assembly and information as fundamental rights that are essential to the conduct of free and fair elections.

75. I am outraged by the continued atrocities carried out in the Beni area, and I condemn in the strongest terms the criminal and senseless acts of violence by suspected ADF and affiliated groups in the Eringeti area, resulting in the killing of civilians. I also note with grave concern allegations of human rights abuses committed by armed groups operating in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. More needs to be done to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes and those who support them. The United Nations remains committed to taking all necessary actions in line with its mandate to protect civilians and neutralize armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

76. I am encouraged by the resumption of active military cooperation between FARDC and MONUSCO in operations against ADF and FDLR in North Kivu, with a view to addressing the threat posed by armed groups to the civilian population in the eastern part of the country. This is an important step in the right direction. As coordinated operations against armed groups gather pace, I once again underline the importance of strong support for the implementation of the national plan for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants along with effective measures to extend State authority. Without a fully funded national programme, there is a renewed risk of former combatants taking up arms and returning to armed groups or resorting to crime. To provide people with alternative livelihoods and options other than violence is paramount to prevent them from taking up weapons again. As indicated in my previous report, it is important that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants be accorded the necessary political and financial commitment, with a view to avoiding a situation whereby former combatants return to their previous violent and illegal activities.

77. In the same spirit of cooperation and partnership, I encourage the Government to continue to work with the Mission on the joint development of a conditions-based joint exit strategy for MONUSCO, in accordance with resolution 2277 (2016).

78. I am grateful to my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Maman Sidikou, for his tireless efforts in carrying out the Mission's mandate. I am deeply appreciative of the work carried out by the civilian and uniformed men and women of MONUSCO and the United Nations country team in a demanding environment. I am also grateful to my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, for his engagement in the subregion in coordination with MONUSCO. I thank the troop- and police-contributing countries, regional organizations and international partners for their continued efforts in support of the Congolese people and authorities in their pursuit of peace and stability.

United Nations S/2016/580

Security Council

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The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and presidential statements concerning the situation in Sudan and underlining the importance of full compliance with these,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Sudan and its determination to work with the Government of Sudan, in full respect of its sovereignty, to assist in tackling the various challenges in Sudan,

Recalling the importance of the principles of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, good neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the country concerned,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, on children and armed conflicts, on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts,

Expressing deep concern at the ongoing insecurity in Darfur as characterised by attacks by rebel groups and Government forces in Jebel Marra, inter-tribal fighting, banditry and criminality, including sexual and gender-based violence targeting women and girls, which continues to threaten civilians, in particular women and children; and *reiterating* its demand that all parties to the conflict in Darfur immediately end violence, including attacks on civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel,

Taking note of the lack of military confrontation between the Government of Sudan and armed groups in Darfur over the past year, except for Jebel Marra, *expressing* deep concern at a significant increase in violence in and around the Jebel Marra, where fighting between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) continued, including aerial bombardments and reported attacks on women and children, as well as inter-communal conflict over land, access to resources, migration issues and tribal rivalries, including with the involvement of paramilitary units and tribal militias, including in East, West and

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North Darfur where inter-communal conflict led to significant displacement as well as the killing and wounding of civilians and the wounding of a peacekeeper,

Emphasizing that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable and that the Government of Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Recalling its resolution 2117 (2013) and *expressing concern* at the threat to peace and security in Darfur arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the continued threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance,

Expressing deep concern at the significant increase in population displacements in 2015 and so far in 2016 and the consequent increase in humanitarian assistance and protection needs, with 80,000 displaced across Darfur during the first five months of 2016 according to the United Nations and partners, some of whom have already returned, and unconfirmed reports due to access restrictions that up to an additional 127,000 were also reportedly displaced, in addition to 247,000 newly displaced in 2015, increasing the estimated total number of long-term internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in Darfur to 2.6 million and a total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance of 3.3 million,

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of Sudan and other signatories to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) to ensure the unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to the population in need and the protection of humanitarian workers and their operations in areas under their control, as well as to guarantee UNAMID unimpeded freedom of movement in all areas and at all times in Darfur in the exercise of its mandate, and *further recalling* the role of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC) in assessing the implementation of the DDPD,

Expressing concern that the continued denial of access and restrictions imposed on humanitarian actors have left significant gaps in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, *calling on* the Government of Sudan to ensure humanitarian actors can operate in support of addressing basic needs,

Expressing concern at access restrictions and obstacles, including bureaucratic obstacles, imposed on the United Nation-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) which continue to jeopardise its ability to deliver on its mandate, including access restrictions in North and Central Darfur which prevent access to populations displaced by the fighting in Jebel Marra, *welcoming* the recent clearance by the Government of Sudan of 233 shipments with food rations for UNAMID and 16 shipments with United Nations- and contingent-owned equipment, *noting* that clearance for 298 shipments containing United Nations- and contingent-owned Equipment remains pending, *recognising* the Government of Sudan's commitment to cooperate with UNAMID and humanitarian personnel on all logistical issues and *calling on* the Government of Sudan to continuously honour its commitment in full,

Calling on donors, the regional authorities in Darfur and the Government of Sudan to provide the financial resources necessary to reach those in need,

Reiterating that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur, and that an inclusive political settlement is essential to re-establishing peace, and *underscoring* the importance of fully addressing the root causes of the conflict in the search for a sustainable peace, which should rapidly deliver real benefits for the Darfuri people, in this regard *reiterating* its support for the DDPD as a viable framework for the peace process in Darfur, and for [illegible] accelerated implementation, as well as the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AU-HIP) mediated peace talks,

Acknowledging the Sudan National Dialogue convened in Khartoum in October 2015 and the efforts of the Government of Sudan to promote the National Dialogue, and further *acknowledging* that this National Dialogue was not sufficiently inclusive as it did not include all relevant parties,

Recalling the statements made by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, which welcome the signing by the Government of Sudan of the Roadmap Agreement proposed by the AU-HIP, urge the non-signatory groups to sign it urgently and call on all signatories to fully abide by the Roadmap Agreement,

Welcoming the additional commitments by the Government of Sudan regarding the inclusivity of the National Dialogue,

Deploring the fact that some armed groups are impeding the peace process and have continued to resort to violence, *reiterating* its demand for the release of members of the former movement of Mohamed Bashar, taken captive in May 2013 by Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)-Gibril forces, and *condemning* any actions by any armed group aimed at forced overthrow of the Government of Sudan,

Noting that UNAMID's ability to facilitate progress in implementation of the DDPD is hampered by delays and the absence of an inclusive political settlement between the Government and non-signatory movements, *urging* the signatory parties to take the necessary remaining steps to implement the DDPD fully, *expressing concern* that the humanitarian and security situation, as well as the lack of capacity of the regional authorities in Darfur, hinder the transition from relief to stabilization and development activities, *urging* the Government of Sudan, with the support of interested donors, to ensure that the outstanding work of the Darfur Regional Authority and the Commissions are properly resourced to continue implementation, *urging* donors and the Government of Sudan to honour their pledges and fulfil their obligations in a timely manner, including those commitments made at the conference in Doha in April 2013, and *affirming* that development can support a lasting peace in Darfur,

Noting that local dispute resolution mechanisms play an important role in preventing and resolving inter-communal conflict, including conflict over natural resources, *urging* an intensification of effective efforts to prevent local disputes leading to violence, with its corresponding impact on the local civilian populations, *acknowledging* the efforts of Sudanese authorities and local mediators to intervene through the deployment of security forces and establishment of buffer zones between warring communities, and to mediate in inter-communal fighting, *welcoming* the encouraging conclusion of several inter-communal peace agreements, with support from UNAMID and the UN Country Team (UNCT), and

urging their continued work in collaboration with the Government of Sudan to find sustainable solutions to these conflicts,

Welcoming regional and other initiatives, undertaken in close interaction with the Government of Sudan, to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur and to promote a sustainable peace, including the convening of JEM and the Sudan Liberation Army Minni Minnawi (SLA/MM) by the Joint Special Representative/ Joint Chief Mediator (JSR/JCM) in coordination with tl.e Government of Qatar in May 2016 which focused on exploring the possibility for the two movements to join the peace process, and *commending* the efforts of the JSR/JCM to secure peace, stability and security in Darfur, including through support to international, regional and national efforts to revitalise the peace process and increase its inclusiveness,

Acknowledging efforts by local governments to restore law and order through the deployment of additional police, corrections and judicial human and material resources across Darfur, including legal advisers, prosecutors, legal aid assistants and family protection units and *noting* that these efforts should be consolidated and expanded to enhance the protective environment for the civilian population, particularly with respect to violation and abuses of women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence,

Underlining, without prejudice to the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, particularly in Sudan,

Taking note of the regular consultations held between the United Nations, African Union and Government of Sudan in the format of the Tripartite mechanism, the report of the Joint Working Group of 23 May 2016, and the intention of the Joint Working Group to reconvene in four months,

Calling on all parties to comply with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, *stressing* the importance that the Council attaches to ending impunity including through ensuring accountability and bringing to justice the perpetrators of crimes committed by all parties in Darfur, *urging* the Government of Sudan to comply with its obligations in this respect, *welcoming* the ongoing investigations by the Special Prosecutor for Darfur appointed by the Government of Sudan and *stressing* the need for further progress in this regard, *reiterating* the call for swift progress on the draft Memorandum of Understanding providing for UNAMID and African Union observation of the proceedings of the Special Court, and *calling on* the Government of Sudan swiftly to investigate attacks against UNAMID, and to bring the perpetrators to justice,

Reaffirming its concern over the negative effect of ongoing violence in Darfur on the stability of Sudan as a whole as well as the region, *welcoming* the ongoing good relations between Sudan and Chad, including on border control, and *encouraging* Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic to continue to cooperate in order to achieve peace and stability in Darfur and the wider region,

Commending the efforts of UNAMID towards promoting peace and stability in Darfur, and *reiterating* its full support for UNAMID,

Welcoming the Special Report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 2 June 2015 (S/2016/510) on UNAMID,

Taking note of the completion of the review commissioned by the Secretary-General on 2 July 2014 into the issue of under-reporting, and allegations of manipulation of reporting, by UNAMID, and *welcoming* the recommendations and conclusions contained in the review and the continued implementation of measures to address this issue,

Determining that the situation in Sudan constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNAMID, as set out in resolution 1769 (2007), until 30 June 2017, and *further decides* that UNAMID shall consist of up to 15,845 military personnel, 1,583 police personnel and 13 formed police units of up to 140 personnel each;

2. *Reiterates*, in the context of the limited progress on the benchmarks and the ongoing insecurity, its endorsement of UNAMID's revised strategic priorities as set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 2148 (2014), namely: the protection of civilians, the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; mediation between the Government of Sudan and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the DDPD, while taking into account ongoing democratic transformation at the national level; and support to the mediation of community conflict, including through measures to address its root causes, in conjunction with the UNCT; *welcomes* the steps taken so far by UNAMID to implement the review of UNAMID conducted pursuant to resolution 2113 (2014), and *requests* that UNAMID continue to align all its activity and direct the use of its resources to the achievement of these priorities, discontinue all other tasks not aligned to these priorities and continue to streamline the mission accordingly, and *stresses* the importance of the appropriate distribution of tasks and coordination between UNAMID and the UNCT in order to implement the review of UNAMID;

3. *Notes* that certain elements of UNAMID's mandate and tasks, as authorized in resolution 1769 (2007), which decided that the mandate of UNAMID shall be as set out in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 5 June 2007 (S/2007/307/Rev.1), are no longer relevant, or are either being undertaken by or will soon transition to other entities with comparative advantage, namely those enumerated in paragraphs 54 (g) and (h), 55 (a) (v), 55 (a) (vii), 55 (b) (ii-iii), 55 (b) (v), 55 (b) (x) and 55 (c) (iii-iv) of that report; and *requests* UNAMID to complete, no later than June 2017, the transition of tasks enumerated in paragraphs 54 (g) and 55 (c) (iv) of this same report to the UNCT;

4. *Underlines* that UNAMID must continue to give priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to: (a) the protection of civilians across Darfur, including women and children, through, and without prejudice to the basic principles of peacekeeping, inter alia, continuing to move to a more preventive and pre-emptive posture in pursuit of its priorities and in active defence of its mandate; enhanced early warning; proactive military deployment and active and effective patrolling in areas at high risk of conflict and high concentration of IDPs; more prompt and effective responses to threats of violence against civilians, including through regular reviews of the geographic deployment of UNAMID's

force; securing IDP camps, adjacent areas and areas of return, including development and training of community policing; and (b) ensuring safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and activities, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and the United Nations guiding principles on humanitarian assistance; and *requests* UNAMID to maximize the use of its capabilities, in cooperation with the UNCT and other international and non-governmental actors, in the implementation of its mission-wide comprehensive strategy for the achievement of these objectives;

5. *Emphasizes* UNAMID's Chapter VII mandate, as defined in resolution 1769 (2007), to deliver its core tasks to protect civilians without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Government of Sudan and to ensure the freedom of movement and security of UNAMID's own personnel and humanitarian workers; *recalls* that UNAMID is authorized to take all the necessary action in fulfilment of this mandate; and *urges* UNAMID to deter any threats against itself and its mandate;

6. *Stresses* that, in the context of the evolving security situation, any refinement of the mission should be based on progress against the benchmarks and the conditions on the ground, and implemented in a gradual, phased, flexible and reversible manner;

7. *Welcomes* efforts to increase the effectiveness of UNAMID, and in this regard, *acknowledges* the recent troops to task review conducted by the United Nations and the African Union Commission and in particular the findings that UNAMID should ensure a higher degree of flexibility in its military deployments and increase the field presence of individual police officers;

8. *Commends* the efforts of the JSR/JCM to revitalise the peace process and to increase its inclusiveness, guided by the Framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur Peace Process, including through renewed engagement of the non-signatory movements; *welcomes* the JSR/JCM's strengthened coordination with the AU-HIP and the United Nations Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan in synchronising their mediation efforts and in generating progress on direct negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Darfur armed movements;

9. *Welcomes* that progress has been made in implementation of some elements of the DDPD, including the completion of security arrangements for Liberation and Justice Movement and JEM-Sudan combatants and the conversion of the Liberation and Justice Movement into two political parties, the integration of former rebels into power structures of Sudan and the ongoing Darfur Internal Dialogue Consultation (DIDC), but *expresses concern* at continuing serious delays in implementation overall, including provisions related to compensation and the creation of a conducive environment enabling the return of IDPs and refugees; *urges* the signatory parties to implement the DDPD in full, including by effective transition of coordination duties and activities of the Darfur Regional Authority to a successor organ and by ensuring that other DDPD institutions established under it are resourced and empowered to carry out their mandates; *demands* that the non-signatory armed groups refrain from impeding the implementation of the DDPD; and *encourages* UNAMID, in accordance with its revised strategic priorities, and the UNCT to continue to engage fully in support of implementation of the DDPD;

10. *Notes* the holding of the Darfur administrative referendum on 11-13 April 2016 which endorsed the five states structure of Darfur, *welcomes* that the referendum took place peacefully, and *notes* the concerns expressed in the Special Report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 2 June 2015 about voter eligibility and the timing of the referendum;

11. *Demands* that all parties to the conflict in Darfur immediately cease all acts of violence, and commit themselves to a sustained and permanent ceasefire, in order to bring a stable and durable peace to the region;

12. *Emphasises* the importance of the work of the AU-HIP, encourages all parties to the conflict to engage constructively with the AU-HIP and in this regard *condemns* the attitude of those who refuse to join the mediation process, including the SLA/AW, *urges* the SLA/AW to join the peace process, without pre-conditions, in order to achieve a cessation of hostilities as a first step towards a comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement;

13. *Welcomes* the signing by the Government of Sudan on 21 March 2016 of the Roadmap Agreement proposed by the AU-HIP and *urges* the non-signatory groups to sign it urgently as an important milestone in determining a practicable way forward towards a cessation of hostilities and an inclusive National Dialogue;

14. *Reaffirms* its support for a Darfur-based internal dialogue that takes place in an inclusive environment with full respect for the civil and political rights of participants, including the full and effective participation of women and IDPs; *welcomes* the release of $1 million by the Government of Sudan as half of its pledged contribution to the funding of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC), which has allowed progress on the second phase of the DIDC, and *calls on* the Government of Sudan to speedily release the remainder of the pledge; *welcomes* the €800,000 pledge by the European Union to fund the DIDC; *expresses concern* that prevailing insecurity, and lack of adequate funding, could undermine effective implementation of future phases of the DIDC; *calls on* the Government of Sudan and the armed groups to ensure the necessary enabling environment; and *requests* UNAMID to continue to support, monitor and report on the development of the DIDC and the overall environment for it;

15. *Calls* for an urgent end to inter-tribal clashes, criminality and banditry that affect civilians, *acknowledges* efforts of Sudanese authorities and local mediators to mediate in inter-communal fighting; *further calls* for reconciliation and dialogue; *welcomes* UNAMID's intention to intensify its efforts to support the mediation of community conflict within the framework of its mandate and strategic priorities; and *requests* UNAMID to continue to support local conflict resolution mechanisms, including with civil society mechanisms and to work with the Government of Sudan, the UNCT and civil society, to develop an action plan on the prevention and resolution of inter-community conflict in each state of Darfur;

16. *Expresses deep concern* over the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons and the use of such arms against civilians and *requests* UNAMID to continue to cooperate in this context with the Panel of Experts established by resolution 1591 (2005) in order to facilitate their work; *notes* the Government of Sudan's announcement of its intention to implement a civilian disarmament campaign for the collection of illicit weapons and *calls on* the

Secretary-General to provide an update on the implementation of this initiative in his next report;

17. *Commends* UNAMID troop- and police-contributing countries; *welcomes* that some progress has been made in addressing contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment shortfalls, but *expresses concern* that shortfalls remain; and *calls* for continued efforts by UNAMID, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to address such shortfalls, including by providing appropriate training and resources to fulfil priority protection functions, especially in areas necessary for contingents' temporary deployment capability and ability to conduct long-range patrols;

18. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on UNAMID; *underlines* that any attack or threat of attack on UNAMID is unacceptable; *demands* that there be no recurrence of such attacks and that those responsible be held to account following prompt and thorough investigation; *pays tribute* to the UNAMID personnel who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for the cause of peace in Darfur; *urges* UNAMID to take all necessary measures within its rules of engagement to protect UN personnel and equipment; *condemns* the ongoing impunity for those who attack peacekeepers, and in this regard *urges* the Government of Sudan to do its utmost to bring all perpetrators of any such crimes to justice and to cooperate with UNAMID to this end;

19. *Reiterates* its deep concern that hindrances remain to UNAMID in the implementation of its mandate, including movement and access restrictions, caused by insecurity, acts of criminality and significant movement restrictions by the Government of Sudan, armed movements and militia groups; *calls on* all parties in Darfur to remove all obstacles to UNAMID's full and proper discharge of its mandate, including by ensuring its security and freedom of movement; and in this regard, *demands* that the Government of Sudan comply with the Status of Forces Agreement fully and without delay, particularly provisions relevant to the movement of patrols in conflict-affected areas and flight clearances, as well as those provisions relevant to the removal of obstacles to the use of UNAMID aerial assets, the timely processing of UNAMID's equipment and rations at the port of entry to Sudan, and the timely issuing of visas; *welcomes* discussions on operational and logistical issues pertaining to UNAMID's effective implementation of its mandate, including through the Tripartite mechanism, *recognises* the Government of Sudan's commitment to cooperate on all logistical issues including customs clearances, visas and access for UNAMID and humanitarian personnel and *calls on* the Government of Sudan to continuously honour its commitment;

20. *Deplores* the delays in processing rations and equipment through ports of entry which have resulted in severe shortages of food rations and equipment over the past year, *welcomes* the recent clearance by the Government of Sudan of 233 shipments with food rations for UNAMID and 16 shipments with United Nations- and contingent-owned equipment, *notes* that clearance for 298 shipments containing United Nations- and contingent-owned equipment remains pending and *calls upon* the Government of Sudan to ensure the timely processing of shipments containing food rations, equipment and other necessary items required by UNAMID;

21. *Condemns* all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, including those involving any form of sexual and gender-based violence, in particular the deliberate targeting of civilians,

indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks; and *demands* that all parties in Darfur immediately end attacks targeting civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel, and comply with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law as applicable;

22. *Expresses serious concern* at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur, and at the threats to and attacks on humanitarian personnel and facilities; *expresses concern* that access to some conflict areas where vulnerable populations reside remains restricted and that some conflict areas are inaccessible, including in North and Central Darfur and eastern Jebel Marra, due to insecurity, acts of criminality and movement restrictions by Government forces, armed movements and militia groups; *welcomes* that humanitarian organizations are able to deliver some aid to most people in need of assistance in Darfur; *deplores* the continued restrictions on humanitarian access in Darfur resulting from increased insecurity, attacks against humanitarian workers, denial of access by the parties to the conflict and bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government of Sudan and that such impediments, among other reasons including financial and operational issues, have caused some international humanitarian actors and United Nations staff to leave Sudan; *further expresses concern* over the insufficient availability of funding for humanitarian actors; *stresses* the need for the timely issuing of visas and travel permits for humanitarian organizations; and *demands* that the Government of Sudan, all militias, armed groups and all other stakeholders ensure the safe, timely and unhindered access of humanitarian organizations and relief personnel, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need throughout Darfur, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

23. *Condemns* increased human rights violations and abuses in, and relating to, Darfur, including those involving extrajudicial killings, the excessive use of force, abduction of civilians, acts of sexual- and gender-based violence, violations and abuses against children, and arbitrary arrests and detentions; *calls on* the Government of Sudan to investigate allegations of such violations and abuses and bring those responsible to justice; *expresses deep concern* about the situation of all those so detained, including civil society members and IDPs; *emphasizes* the importance of ensuring, within its current mandate, UNAMID's and other relevant organizations' ability to monitor such cases; and in this regard *urges* the Government of Sudan to extend full cooperation with UNAMID towards fulfilment of this goal and to provide accountability and access to justice for victims; *calls on* the Government of Sudan fully to respect its obligations, including by fulfilling its commitment to lift the state of emergency in Darfur, releasing all political prisoners and ensuring free expression;

24. *Requests* UNAMID to monitor, verify, and draw to the attention of the authorities abuses and violations of human rights, including those committed against women and children, and violations of international humanitarian law, and *further requests* enhanced, detailed, full and public reporting by the Secretary-General to the Council on this issue, as part of his regular 90-day reports;

25. *Requests* UNAMID to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces

(HRDDP), and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing the policy in his reports to the Security Council;

26. *Urges* close coordination among United Nations missions in the region, including UNAMID, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure effective inter-mission cooperation;

27. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation and information-sharing between UNAMID, UNMISS, MINUSCA and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and relevant regional and international partners in addressing the regional threat including of the Lord's Resistance Army, and *recalls* its encouragement to UNAMID, within existing capacities and consistent with its mandate, to cooperate and share information in this regard;

28. *Notes* the Government of Sudan's stated desire to see the displaced return to their areas of origin or resettle in their current areas of displacement; *stresses* that any returns should be safe, voluntary and in accordance with applicable international law; and further *stresses* the importance of achieving dignified and durable solutions for refugees and IDPs, and of ensuring their full participation in the planning and management of these solutions;

29. *Demands* that all parties to the conflict in Darfur create the conditions conducive to allowing the voluntary, informed, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and IDPs, or, where appropriate, their local integration and within the context of its protection of civilians mandate; *welcomes* UNAMID's plan for renewed effort to enhance the protection of IDPs; *stresses* the need for the establishment of a mechanism in order to verify the extent to which these returns are voluntary and informed in nature, and *underlines* the importance of addressing land issues for the realization of durable solutions in Darfur;

30. *Demands* that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all acts of sexual and gender-based violence and make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, in accordance with resolution 2106 (2013); *urges* the Government, with the support of the United Nations and African Union, to develop a structured framework through which conflict related sexual violence will be comprehensively addressed, and to allow access for service provision for sexual violence survivors; *requests* UNAMID to strengthen its reporting on sexual and gender-based violence and actions taken to combat it, including through the swift deployment of Women Protection Advisers; *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the relevant provisions of resolutions 1325 (2000), 2242 (2015), and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, are implemented, including supporting the full and effective participation of women during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including women's civil society organizations, and to include information on this in his reporting to the Council; *further requests* UNAMID to monitor and assess the implementation of these tasks and *requests* the Secretary-General to include information on this in his reporting to the Council;

31. *Demands* that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and develop and implement concrete and time-bound action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law; *welcomes* the Government's adoption of an Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Violations in Armed Conflict and *urges* the Government to implement this Action Plan in full; and *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure:

(a) continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Darfur; and

(b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the development and implementation of the aforementioned action plans, in accordance with resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict;

32. *Underscores* the importance of regular review by the Security Council of each United Nations peacekeeping mission's progress in implementing its mandate, and *recalls* its request to the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the African Union, and seeking perspectives from all relevant parties, to conduct an analysis of implementation of the review of UNAMID; in this regard, *takes note* of the Secretary-General's efforts to make recommendations on the future of UNAMID, including its exit strategy, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 7 of resolution 2173 (2014); *concurs* that UNAMID's long-term planning should be based upon progress towards the mission's benchmarks as set out in the Secretary-General's report of 16 October 2012 (S/2012/771) and subsequently refined in his reports of 25 February 2014 (S/2014/138) and 15 April 2014 (S/2014/279) (Annex); *takes note* that the Secretary-General, in his report of 26 May 2015 (S/2015/378), emphasizes that a political settlement in Darfur and direct talks between Government and the non-signatory armed movements, starting with a cessation of hostilities in Darfur, is essential to re-establishing peace in Darfur and is primary to the achievement of these benchmarks;

33. *Takes note* of ongoing consultations between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of Sudan, notably in the frameworks of the Tripartite mechanism and the Joint Working Group, including discussion of operational and logistical issues pertaining to the mission's operation as well as the development of an exit strategy in accordance with the mission's benchmarks; *requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations, within 120 days of the adoption of this resolution, including by building on any agreed recommendations of the Joint Working Group and *undertakes* to consider the Secretary-General's recommendations in due course, on what practical steps need to be taken by all Sudanese parties with the support of UNAMID in order to make tangible progress towards achieving the benchmarks;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every 90 days following adoption of this resolution on UNAMID, including:

(i) information on the political, humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, including detailed reporting on incidents of violence and attacks against civilians, by whomsoever perpetrated;

(ii) information on violations of the Status of Forces Agreement, including those involving attacks or threats of attack on UNAMID, violations of

international humanitarian law perpetrated by any party to the conflict, as well as access restrictions and significant operational obstacles such as those related to customs clearances and visas;

(iii) developments and progress towards achievement of UNAMID's strategic priorities and benchmarks, including progress in response to the Secretary General's recommendations on practical steps requested in paragraph 33 of this resolution;

(iv) developments and progress in addressing the challenges facing UNAMID as identified in the review of UNAMID; and

(v) on the implementation of this resolution;

35. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Annex: UNAMID benchmarks as set out in Annex 1 of the Secretary-General report of 15 April 2014 (S/2014/279)

Benchmark 1: inclusive peace process through mediation between the Government and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

Requirements for progress would include a commitment on the part of the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory movements to reach a comprehensive negotiated political settlement to the conflict and adhere to its full and timely implementation; and credible Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations that seek to reflect the views of the civilian population, including women, on Darfur in the peace process.

Indicators

High-level mediation

- The Government and the non-signatory movements enter into direct negotiations brokered by the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur over an all-inclusive comprehensive settlement to the Darfur conflict within the context of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.
- The signatory parties, with the support of international partners, implement the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which remain essential in addressing the root causes of conflict in Darfur.
- The Government and the non-signatory movements conclude and observe a comprehensive and inclusive cessation of hostilities.
- The outcomes of the Darfur peace process are reflected in a national constitutional process supported by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan, as provided for in the framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process.

Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations;

- Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations take place in an inclusive and transparent environment that ensures the proportional representation of Darfuris and respect for the human rights of participants, as monitored by African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).
- The outcomes of the Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations are widely disseminated and implemented in a manner that promotes and consolidates peace and stability in Darfur.
- A functioning Darfur Regional Authority that oversees the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in conjunction with the Government of the Sudan.

Benchmark 2: protection of civilians and unhindered humanitarian access and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel

Requirements for progress would include the demonstrated commitment of the parties to the conflict, including Government forces, non-signatory movements and other armed groups, to cease hostilities and respect and implement ceasefire and security arrangements; the demonstrated commitment of the parties to the conflict to implement measures to protect civilians (or promote/respect human rights); the demonstrated commitment of the parties to the conflict to allow unrestricted

humanitarian access; the willingness of local actors to facilitate the safe, voluntary and sustainable return, reintegration or resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees; improvement of TCC/PCC performance and equipment; support by the international donor community for humanitarian activities and, where appropriate, early recovery and rehabilitation; the improved coordination between UNAMID and humanitarian actors with regard to the facilitation of the deli very of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; and the commitment of the Government of the Sudan at the national and local levels to improve the capacity of its security, judicial and penal institutions to promote and protect human rights.

Indicators

Protection of civilians from imminent threats of physical violence;

- Civilians facing imminent threats of physical violence are protected by UNAMID.
- Civilians at risk of physical attack, in particular women and children, carry out livelihood activities safely and securely under UNAMID protection.
- Civilians receive emergency medical assistance from UNAMID, including through evacuation to medical facilities, in extreme circumstances (i.e., when humanitarian actors are unable to assist).

Protective environment;

- Security and stability (as indicated by an absence of serious crime or violent conflict) for civilians within camps for internally displaced persons and temporary settlements.
- Security and stability (as indicated by an absence of serious crime or violent conflict) for civilians in areas outside of camps for internally displaced persons and temporary settlements, including in particular in areas adjacent to camps.
- Reduction in the number of violent crimes against civilians.
- Reduction in human rights violations, including incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, as recorded by UNAMID.
- Reduction in the recruitment of child soldiers by the parties to the conflict.
- Improved environment for the protection of civil and political rights, including through the development of sustainable foundations for professional, democratic policing and law enforcement.
- Trials monitored by UNAMID are fair and in accordance with international legal standards and practices.
- The prevalence of arms and armed actors is reduced through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants in accordance with the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.
- Threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance are addressed through, inter alia, the safe disposal of such materials and through risk-awareness training.

Safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access and safety and security for humanitarian personnel;

- Humanitarian actors requesting UNAMID protection and other support are able to conduct operations (e.g., inter alia aid delivery and distribution and needs assessments) in a safe, timely and unhindered manner.
- Humanitarian actors and their property are safe and secure, in particular when UNAMID protection is provided.
- Parties to the conflict honour their commitments and international obligations to combat all acts of sexual violence against women, men and children and put an end to the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Benchmark 3: prevention or mitigation of community conflict through mediation and, in conjunction with the United Nations country team, measures to address its root causes

Requirements for progress would include willingness on the part of the authorities and traditional community leaders to play a constructive role in resolving intercommunal conflict peacefully; the provision of access to UNAMID to facilitate mediation efforts; strengthened traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and greater respect thereof; the inclusion of measures in reconciliation agreements to address the root causes of intercommunal conflict; a willingness on the part of the authorities and other parties to the conflict to fulfil their responsibilities in regard to preventing or resolving intercommunal clashes; and the provision of access to the United Nations Country Team to enable measures that address root causes related to natural resources, recovery and reconstruction.

Indicators

- Dialogue between pastoralist and agriculturalist communities over peaceful coexistence and shared access to natural resources, in particular prior to and during the migration season.
- Interventions by the authorities and traditional community mediators, facilitated by UNAMID, that prevent or resolve violent intercommunal conflict.
- Dialogue between conflicting parties over local settlements to violent intercommunal conflict.
- Conflicting parties enter into and adhere to local agreements that settle violent intercommunal conflict.
- Reduction in the number of incidents of and new displacement resulting from intercommunal conflict.
- Transitional justice mechanisms, including the National Human Rights Commission, the Special Court for Darfur and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, are established and operating in accordance with international human rights standards and best practice.
- Improved access to justice through the adoption of measures aimed at enhancing victims' rights to truth, justice and remedy.

United Nations S/2016/581

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 27 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you and, through you, to the members of the Security Council a progress report on the voluntary return of the internally displaced persons around the area of Jabal Marrah (see annex). The report reflects in details all the arrangements and steps taken by the Government at the federal and local levels, which have contributed to stability and the normalization of the humanitarian situation.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl Mohamed
Permanent Representative

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of Welfare and Social Security
Humanitarian Aid Commission

Report of the Jabal Marrah Region Support Commission

19 June 2016

Report on the voluntary return of persons affected by the events in the Jabal Marrah region

Introduction

Efforts by the Government and its partners to provide food and shelter to affected persons have helped to stabilize the humanitarian situation in the Jabal Marrah region. Voluntary return operations implemented in parts of Central Darfur State and North Darfur State have involved some 25,000 individuals.

Measures taken by the Federal Government

1. The Jabal Marrah Region Support Commission, chaired by the Vice-President of the Republic, held four meetings.

2. The technical committee to provide support to the Jabal Marrah area, chaired by the Minister of State for the Ministry of Health, held 10 meetings, in addition to separate meetings with partners, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

3. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning approved the allocation of 10 million Sudanese pounds for voluntary return operations and the normalization of the humanitarian situation in the Jabal Marrah area as follows: 5 million pounds for the Humanitarian Aid Commission, 3 million pounds for the national water and environmental remediation initiative and 2 million pounds for the federal Ministry of Health.

4. The Humanitarian Aid Commission sent an advance mission headed by the Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Assistance to make logistical arrangements and monitor aid in the region. That mission is continuing its work.

Measures taken by the State Governments

1. Starting on 7 June 2016, the Council of Ministers of the Central Darfur State government, headed by the State Governor, spent 10 days in the Golo region to inspect conditions and address problems.

2. Approximately 4,600,000 Sudanese pounds were provided for the transport of returnees, and 672,720 Sudanese pounds were provided for the purchase of foodstuffs and shelter supplies.

3. Popular committees were formed to coordinate voluntary return operations with displaced persons.

4. The State Commission has been in contact with international and local organizations about providing assistance.

Figures on voluntary return

Some 82 voluntary return operations have been conducted. Some 25,460 individuals have returned to their villages of origin, including 17,900 individuals from camps in Central Darfur State and 7,879 individuals from camps in Northern Darfur State. That number does not include persons who returned via animal transport or on foot.

From	*To*	*Number of individuals*
Guldo	Golo	6 130
Shadad	Faluga	172
Shadad	Sawani	300
Jadid (Tawilah)	Rokero	600
Jadid (Tawilah)	Various villages	1 570
Tur	Various villages	2 522
Sortony	Various villages	2 037
Nertiti	Tur	1 050
Kabkabayah	Dubli	200
Jadid (Tawilah)	Dobo Umdah and Murtal	3 000
–	Villages in North Darfur	7 879
Total		**25 460**

Above figures provided by the Central Darfur State Humanitarian Aid Commission.

Interventions

	Party	*Item*
1	Federal Ministry of Health	(1) 260 litres of diazinon insecticide
		(2) 6 foggers
		(3) 31 Hudson pumps
		(4) 620 litres of permethrin insecticide
		(5) 14 personal health care kits
		(6) 15 reproductive health kits
		(7) 20 boxes of intravenous fluids

	Party	Item
		(8) 10 water purification devices
		(9) 11 miscellaneous medicines and medical items
2	State Government	(1) 4,600,000 Sudanese pounds for voluntary return operations
		(2) 672,720 Sudanese pounds for foodstuffs and shelter supplies
		(3) 100 tents
	Humanitarian Aid Commission	(1) 5,000 sacks of millet from the Agricultural Bank's strategic reserve in Rabak
		(2) 150,000 Sudanese pounds transferred to the Central Darfur Commission to support return operations
3	The Zakat Chamber	10,000 boxes of fast-breaking bags
	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	10,000 tarpaulins
		10,000 blankets
		10,000 carpets
		10,000 empty jerrycans
	National water and environmental remediation initiative	2 27 kV electricity generators (Central Darfur — Zalingei)
		2 submersible 40-hose pumps (Central Darfur – Zalingei)
		25 hand pumps (Central Darfur — Zalingei)
		Spare parts for pumps (Central Darfur — Zalingei)
		600 plastic toilet seats (Central Darfur — Zalingei)
		Spare parts for pumps (Southern Darfur — Nyala)
		4 pumps (Southern Darfur – Nyala)
		500 plastic toilet seats (Southern Darfur — Nyala)
	Zubayr Charitable Foundation	(1) 300 large tarpaulins
		(2) 20 boxes of insecticide
		(3) 15 hand pumps

• WFP was authorized to provide 1.878 tons of foodstuffs (for 69,535 individuals) in the Tur, Nertiti, Golo and Guldo regions, including wheat, lentils and children's biscuits, for three months. They will be distributed through the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

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- WFP was authorized to provide to provide 1.355 tons of foodstuffs (for 75,323 individuals) in the Fanga and Rokero areas north of Jabal Marrah, including wheat, lentils and children's biscuits, for two months. They will be distributed through the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.
- The Sudanese Red Crescent Society is transporting and distributing supplies provided by the High Commission for Refugee Affairs.

United Nations S/2016/582

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 29 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters concerning the support the Jordanian regime provides to terrorist groups that are active and perpetrate savage acts of terrorism in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to convey to you the following information regarding the facilitation by the Jordanian regime of the entry of trucks loaded with weapons destined for armed terrorist groups in Syria.

- At 1320 hours on 2 June 2016, armed terrorist groups brought eight large trucks from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing and headed towards the Rusay'i well in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 0115 hours on 15 June, armed terrorist groups brought eight containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing and headed towards the Rusay'i well in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 0315 hours on 15 June, armed terrorist groups brought seven containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing and 6 containers via the Bi'r al-Sawj border crossing.
- At 2125 hours on 15 June, armed terrorist groups brought three containers from Jordan into Syria via the Ruwayshid border crossing and four containers via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing, and headed towards the Rusay'i well.
- At 2315 hours on 15 June 2016, armed terrorist groups brought five containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing and headed towards the Rusay'i well in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 0130 hours on 17 June 2016, armed terrorist groups brought four containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing and headed towards the Rusay'i well in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 0355 hours on 18 June 2016, armed terrorist groups brought nine containers from Jordan into Syria in the area of the Zalaf Dam and headed towards the Rusay'i well in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 2155 hours on 23 June 2016, armed terrorist groups brought four containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing and headed

towards Bi'r al-Rusay'i. They also brought 10 containers into Syria in the Zalaf Dam area and headed towards the Abu Sanasil and Rusay'i wells.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that the conduct of the Jordanian regime and its direct support for terrorist organizations and groups in Syria is a blatant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), which reaffirm that States Members of the United Nations must not provide any form of support to terrorist groups or the members thereof.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities and oblige the Jordanian regime to desist from it practices, which threaten security and stability in the region and around the world.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/583

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 30 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Today, before the Security Council gathered to discuss the situation in the Middle East, the people of Israel awoke to yet another tragic day of terror. Hallel Yaffa Ariel, a 13-year-old girl from Kiryat Arba, was murdered in the middle of the night by a 17-year-old Palestinian terrorist. The attacker broke into her bedroom, locked the door, pulled out a knife and stabbed her multiple times while she was still sleeping in her bed. Hallel succumbed to her wounds shortly after the arrival of the paramedics. After committing this cowardly act, the young terrorist then stabbed a security guard who arrived at the scene, seriously wounding him.

Just yesterday, Hallel was performing at a dance recital and, today, she was buried by her loved ones. At her funeral, Hallel's mother Rena spoke before her daughter's body and asked: "How do you eulogize a 13-and-a-half-year-old girl? Your mom and dad are here. Tell me what should I say? Tell me the words you use to eulogize a flower."

Just a few hours after Hallel's funeral, another Palestinian terrorist went on a stabbing spree in a market in the coastal city of Netanya, seriously wounding a 40-year-old man and slightly wounding a 62-year-old woman.

The horrifying murder of an innocent girl in her bed sheds light on the consequences of the ongoing Palestinian incitement. Generation after generation of young Palestinians is educated to hate Israelis and idolize terrorists.

There is a direct link between the inciting rhetoric used by the Palestinian leadership and the despicable murder of Hallel Yaffa Ariel today.

Last week, in his speech to the European Parliament, Palestinian President Abbas repeated the outrageous lie that Israel seeks to poison the Palestinian water supply. He did not hesitate to issue such baseless accusations by saying that certain rabbis in Israel have said very clearly to their government that our water should be poisoned in order to have Palestinians killed. This vicious slander is rooted in the centuries-old accusations against Jews for poisoning wells and is quite simply a blood libel.

With this endless stream of incitement coming from the Palestinian leadership and the lack of condemnation by the international community, it is no surprise that these words of hate translate into acts of violence against innocent Israelis.

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Members of the international community must recognize the consequences that these words hold. The sad truth is that peace will not come as long as President Abbas and the Palestinian leadership continue to glorify violence and encourage a culture of death instead of seeking ways to improve the lives of their people.

I call upon the Security Council to condemn the cruel murder of Hallel Yaffa Ariel and the terror attack in Netanya, in which two innocent Israelis were injured, in a clear and decisive manner and to act to stop the Palestinian incitement immediately.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/584

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 30 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on the failure of Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to address the question of the occupied Syrian Golan in his briefing to the Security Council on 25 May 2016 (S/2016/500), and with reference to the regular monthly meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East that was held on 30 June 2016, I should like, on instructions from my Government, to draw your attention to the following:

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic vehemently objects to and deplores the failure yet again of Mr. Mladenov, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to address the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan in the briefing he gave on 30 June 2016. He also failed to highlight the position of the United Nations on the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan as set forth in the relevant United Nations resolutions, notably Security Council resolution 497 (1981). Furthermore, he also failed to address continuing Israeli violations and illegal practices in the occupied Syrian Golan, even though those issues are at the heart of the item that was under discussion and are an integral part of his mandate as the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

- Syria reaffirms that the item entitled "the situation in the Middle East" has, as is well-known, historically addressed ways to enforce United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions, on ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and the withdrawal of Israel from those territories to the June 1967 borders, as well as resolutions on ending Israeli violations of humanitarian law, human rights law and other international instruments, in order to achieve comprehensive peace and justice in the region in accordance with the recognized terms of reference.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic therefore calls on the Secretariat to ensure that its future monthly briefings on the situation in the Middle East address the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan and implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/585

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Japan, the Security Council plans to hold an open debate on Tuesday, 19 July 2016, on the working methods of the Council under the agenda item "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)".

In order to help guide the debate, Japan has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Koro **Bessho**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

16-11354 (E) 080716

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the working methods of the Security Council under the agenda item "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)", to be held on 19 July 2016

I. Introduction

On 19 July 2006, the Security Council adopted the first note by the President of the Security Council (S/2006/507) on the working methods of the Council after intensive work by the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. Japan, the Chair of the Informal Working Group for 2016, will convene on 19 July, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of this important note, an open debate on the working methods of the Council, under the agenda item "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)", as one of the highlights of its presidency of the Council for the month of July 2016.

II. Background and context

The Security Council is expected to meet two sometimes conflicting requirements: first, to make decisions that will ensure prompt and effective action to maintain international peace and security; and second, to gain the support of the wider United Nations membership for such decisions of the Council to be carried out. Enhancing transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness of the working methods of the Council is crucial to the effective functioning of the Council by meeting these requirements.

In all these areas, the Security Council has made steady progress during the past decade. In 2006, a note by the President of the Security Council (S/2006/507) was issued as a compilation of the working methods of the Council, setting forth clearly the Council's working practices. Then in 2010, another note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507), containing 13 areas relating to Council practices, updated, further developed and expanded the previous note of 2006. These notes were both products of intensive work by the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions chaired by Japan.

Since the note of 2010, there have been additional notes issued on the working methods of the Security Council. While these are important achievements, they remain in separate documents and in a random order. This is not user-friendly, and may be contributing to implementation problems in some cases. There may also be room for further improvement.

In the statement by the President of the Security Council of 30 October 2015 (S/PRST/2015/19) on behalf of the Security Council, the Council requested the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions "to continue reviewing and updating relevant Notes by the President of the Security

Council, in particular Note S/2010/507, including with a focus on implementation". In the coming months, in accordance with the statement by the President, the Informal Working Group intends to work towards a single comprehensive document in the form of an updated note 507 that would consolidate and streamline all decisions on working methods. An updated note 507 could also include some new improvements.

III. Objective of the debate

It is useful for the Security Council to periodically conduct a comprehensive review of the progress, in the light of the current practice and taking into account the voices from the wider United Nations membership. In the note by the President of the Security Council of 28 August 2013 (S/2013/515), the members of the Council expressed their commitment "to continuing to provide opportunities to hear the views of the broader membership on the working methods of the Council, including in any open debate on the implementation of the note by the President of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507), and to welcoming the continued participation by the broader membership in such debates".

In keeping with this commitment, and building on the open debates organized annually by the Security Council in recent years, this open debate will provide an opportunity for the Council, with the participation of interested delegations from the wider membership, to look at the implementation of note 507 and other relevant notes to identify successful practices as well as possible shortcomings, and consider making necessary adjustments. Some adjustments can be made to improve the way the Council implements the notes, while others may be made to codify newly emerging customs and practices or to further improve the current working methods of the Council.

This open debate will be especially beneficial and timely for the Security Council as it will start discussions on an updated note 507 through the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. Delegations are thus invited to draw lessons from the past six years of developments in the working methods of the Council, and make practical suggestions in the key areas of transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness, as well as impact, so as to inform, support and guide the future work of the Informal Working Group. A useful summary of the open debate of 2015 under the Spanish presidency is available for reference in the letter dated 12 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/679-S/2016/35).

IV. Format

Open debates are aimed at giving the Security Council the benefit of contributions from both Council members and the wider membership. It is too often the case, however, that open debates end up becoming day-long meetings without much focus.

The note by the President of the Security Council of 12 December 2012 (S/2012/922), states: "All participants speaking in an open debate, including members of the Security Council, are encouraged to be succinct and focused in their

interventions, which, whenever possible, should not exceed ... time suggested by the President of the Security Council at the start of the debate. If necessary, the text of a more detailed statement may be circulated to Council members and participants." This open debate intends to implement this by the following means.

- In order to make the open debate action-oriented, all speakers are strongly urged to focus their interventions on up to three topics they consider most important to address in the Council's deliberations on an updated note 507. In doing so, speakers are also encouraged, whenever possible, to refer to the specific paragraphs of the relevant existing notes of the President of the Security Council. (For example, in the case of the methodologies of wrap-up sessions and informal briefing sessions, speakers may refer to paragraphs 14 and 15 of note S/2012/922 as well as to paragraph 2 (i) of note S/2013/515. In the case of the drafting of Council products and the penholdership arrangement, speakers may refer to paragraphs 42-45 of the annex to note S/2010/507 and to note S/2014/268. In the case of reporting intervals, speakers may refer to paragraph 12 of the annex to note S/2010/507.)
- All speakers (both Council members and non-Council members alike) are asked to kindly keep their interventions succinct and within 4 minutes.
- To this end, all speakers are urged to refrain from the usual introductory compliments.
- Speakers who wish to do so may circulate, if necessary, the text of a more detailed statement to Council members and participants, without making oral statements which exceed 4 minutes.
- Joint statements, including from members of the Security Council, are encouraged.
- Microphone lights will start blinking when there are 30 seconds left until the time that the speakers are asked to finish. When 30 seconds have passed after the time the speakers are asked to finish, the President will urge the speakers to kindly wrap up immediately by using the gavel as necessary. (As all speakers are expected to finish their interventions in 4 minutes, microphone lights will start blinking at 3 minutes and 30 seconds, and the President will notify the speakers at 4 minutes and 30 seconds.)

V. Outcome

No outcome document is expected immediately following the open debate itself. However, as in 2010, Japan, as the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, intends to follow up the discussions in the open debate, especially the specific practical suggestions made in the debate, in the deliberations of the Informal Working Group on an updated note 507, to be adopted in due course.